

Czechs lost their offices. Six Czech generals, 21 well-known senior officers, many professors, intellectuals, deputies and trade union officials were killed. Now the leading positions in the ministries were occupied almost exclusively by Germans, and there were German commissars in every town.



March 15, 1939 - Hitler in Prague Castle. The "Protectorate" is proclaimed. (Archive)



Pilsen is occupied, SS flags are now flying next to the flag of the Third Reich. (Archive)

Heydrich's entire policy was based on the assumption that the enemies were not the Czechs themselves, but the elites. He assumed that after the elimination of hostile (potential) leaders, the country could be considered pacified. He therefore feared no paralysis of armaments production and no popularization of the resistance movement. At the same time as the terror escalated, he introduced a pro-social policy, particularly in the key industry mentioned. Today's concept of the "benign hegemon" would become part of this concept of leader

fit American neoconservatives. The whole thing was accompanied by appropriate propaganda: It portrayed Heydrich as the "protector" of the workers, who significantly improved their living conditions. In October and December 1941 he organized a widely advertised reception for a delegation of farmers and industrial workers, promising them "golden mountains" for the realization of the tasks set. He raised their salaries, gave free protective gear, gave away 200,000 pairs of safety shoes and bicycles. Social and medical services were expanded in the factories, numerous free entertainment events were organized, soup and the like were offered free of charge in the canteens. This was primarily noticeable in the companies that were particularly important for the war effort, with the model example being the Skoda works already mentioned and described in more detail below. A modern canteen, a medical advice center and a sanatorium can be seen in photos. Not infrequently, these benefits were not available to workers even before, during peacetime.

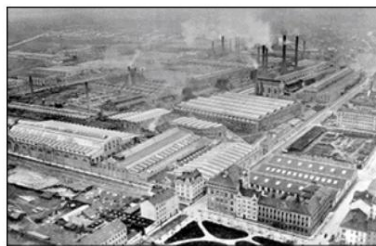
In fact, maintaining the high performance of the industry had the highest priority. At the same time, this policy represented the realization of Hitler's earlier thesis that only the elites were the carriers of national identity; for the rest of the population it is of secondary importance.

Heydrich wanted to be seen as a kind of king of his model SS state. As an aside, it should be noted that this is associated with a rather unusual, almost anecdotal story. For all his ruthlessness towards his enemies, Heydrich had a soft spot for his children, he was a loving father and couldn't refuse them anything. One day he ordered that the chapel of the Czech rulers in St. Vitus Cathedral be opened especially for them. He took out the coronation regalia and gave them to the children to play with, who rolled the ornate gold crown on the floor, tried it on, banged the scepter against the wall. Dad himself also tried on the crown and, to the delight of his offspring, put on silly faces for a few minutes. He probably didn't know the old legend that said that anyone who unauthorizedly donned the Přemyslid crown would soon die, and not naturally.

However, let us return to the policy of the SS in the Protectorate. Has this concept proven itself in practice? Yes, it even exceeded all expectations. Heydrich was not only recognized by a significant part of the population (the resistance movement was not as massive as in Poland, so the blows directed at it were not felt by the general public either). It was much more important that the leadership of the German Reich began to look at the exemplary "SS state" differently. Hitler was delighted by the incredible successes - both economic and in the area of internal security. Even Walter Schellenberg, head of the SS intelligence service, wrote that "Heydrich's policy in the Protectorate promised great success". The "SS Model State" became a reality. All of this, of course, prepared the ground for Himmler's more far-reaching economic expansion, but it also had a different aftertaste.

It aroused hostility even within the circles of the heads of the Third Reich themselves - especially Himmler, who had very specific reasons for fearing that Hitler wanted to replace him with Heydrich.

Of course, the "Protector" had many enemies. Irrespective of this, on May 27, 1942, members of the Czech resistance movement, controlled from London, carried out an attack on Heydrich, who was driving in a car without an escort. However, this matter is only apparently simple.



The huge Skoda complex in Pilsen employed about 36,000 people. (Archive)

Was it possible for the pragmatic Czech people to improve their situation in this way? The Czechs would not have benefited at all, they would only have lost and their country could have been bloodied - we already know that. The most sensible theory is that the reason for the attack was Allied dissatisfaction with Heydrich's great

It was the capacity with which he transformed his mini-model state, while at the same time managing to pacify the Czech population and involve them in fruitful cooperation. The terror that followed the attack would have seriously disrupted the functioning of this motivational mechanism. But the Allies were by no means the only ones greatly disturbed by this state of affairs!

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One of the Czech LT-38 tanks at the Pilsen works being inspected by an SS officer.
(Archive)



Another inspection, this time conducted by Wehrmacht officers headed by General Blaskowitz. (Archive)

Despite Heydrich's death (after only eight months of rule), the previous economic model continued to evolve and the SS retained its influence. What's more, the role of factories and research institutions in the Protectorate increased significantly, on the one hand due to their modernization, but on the other hand also because this area, like Lower Silesia, functioned as a kind of "Reich air raid shelter". This mainly affected the mountain regions. This in turn led to the rise of the "SS Model State". In short, the same process took place as in the case of Lower Silesia. This development is best summed up in a memorable monthly report on industrial espionage by the Polish Home Army

March 1944 together: 16

"41. Plans to establish a German industry in the Czech Republic.

According to indirect credible information from the end of II '44 from an engineer on the staff of Reich Minister Speer.

The industry is in serious crisis because of the air raids, but the situation is expected to change radically within 3-5 months after the factories relocated to the Czech Republic start operating.

According to the informant, Speer's staff is convinced that the industry in the Czech Republic will not be bombed because of international capital. Opinions about the Czechs are positive, they are seen as a mature people who are accommodating to the Germans." Albert Speer is also a source of many more interesting and important ones

Information about the development of the Czech "Principality":

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"Before 1942, the SS regarded the industry of the Czech area known as the 'Protectorate' as its own domain, just as it did the administration of this country from September 1941 after the fall of the Reich Protector for Bohemia and Moravia, Baron Konstantin von Neurath."



A photograph that has already been printed in Volume II, but is immensely significant. The Pilsen works were so important to the Germans that despite the low risk of air raids, a second wooden factory was built on the outskirts of town, with wooden railroad tracks to lure in the bombers! (Archive)



An inspection in the Skoda works. Director Voss shows von Neurath documents about the production. SS officers stand at left. (Archive)

From then until his assassination on June 4, 1942, Reinhard Heydrich was the undisputed ruler of this area, largely independent of central Berlin offices, and even after his death the appointment of the insignificant Karl Hermann Frank continued the tradition on which government affairs were tested SS leaders were transferred.

So it was not surprising that Himmler and his staff sought to exploit the former Czechoslovakia's strong arms industry for SS armament purposes. He evidently considered it his inherent right when, in the first months of my ministerial activity, he summarily diverted the arms and ammunition development of the advanced Skoda works, which also included the Brno arms works.

In March 1942, to secure this project, Himmler had managed to convince Hitler that in future 'the Skoda works and the Waffenwerke Brünn [the former *řeská Zbrojovka Brno*] should make their new developments in cooperation with the Waffen-SS'.

So it seems not just a question, as Voss claimed, of setting up an SS research center "at" the works in Pilsen - the whole Skoda group worked closely with Otto Schwab's "Technical Office", at least at that time! Here is the rest of the description

of the "Reich Minister for Armaments and War

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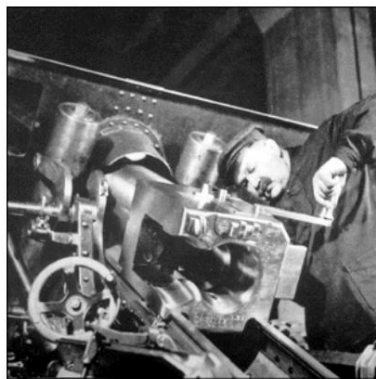
Production": "This order from Hitler remained unknown to me for many months; It was one of Hitler's numerous double-tracks, which he repeatedly ordered, without damaging the reputation of his ministers or commanders-in-chief, without even informing the employee actually responsible.

This order was probably due to Hitler's distrust of the Army Ordnance Office, which he assumed was over-reacting

conservative and averse to innovation. On March 16, 1942, I myself, without being able to foresee the consequences, cleared up concerns with Hitler which, for reasons of secrecy, had to be taken into account for development work in these Czech plants with Czech engineers. At that time, Hitler decided to deliver captured weapons to the Skoda works for the first time for technical evaluation and to inform Heydrich of his decision. [It's about the Soviet 76 mm F-22 guns, which were later installed on the hull of the Czech 38-ton tank - this is how a successful version of the *Marder III* tank destroyer was created].



Von Neurath in the Skoda works - behind him an SS officer. (Archive)



Skoda - assembly of the 150 mm howitzer. (Archive)



Assembly of light tanks at the Skoda works in 1941. (Archive)

It was entirely in line with the prevailing situation when Voss, head of the Skoda works and who was the honorary standard leader of the SS, assured Himmler in his first report that he was 'striving to do justice to all the wishes and special requests of the Waffen SS in every respect will'. On many typewritten pages, Himmler received precise reports on developments for mountain howitzers, for an 8 cm mortar with 48 rocket grenades modeled on the Stalin organs [Katyusha batteries], for an SS submachine gun, for rifle grenades, for a machine gun with intermediate calibre, and for other weapons. To a large extent, the tests were already well advanced and the 'requirements made by the Reichsführer SS had been largely met'. Voss ended his letter to Himmler as 'Your most obediently devoted SS Standartenführer'.

Himmler was impressed: 'I was very interested in your report on the status of the development work. I assume that the cooperation has now worked out quite well,' he replied a few weeks later.

Three days after this praise, on May 11, 1942, Voss was able to confirm Himmler's opinion: 'Because we concentrated the overall development for the Waffen SS at Skoda and Brünnener Waffenwerke in the liaison staff, and because systematic, intensive cooperation with assured by the SS Weapons Office', the development of the new weapons has progressed faster than expected."

The research work was carried out in Pilsen so effectively that

The center became one of the most important research institutions in the entire German Reich and was therefore also treated accordingly by Hitler - which even Speer admits when describing a temporary weakening of the influence of the SS at Skoda. Here is some other valuable information written by Speer:

"By mid-May 1944, the last uncontrollable influence of the SS had been taken away from Skoda: 'Reported to the Führer on the pleasing development in the production figures of the Skoda works, presenting a comparison of the production in January 1943, January 1944 and March 1944. The Führer has asked to express their gratitude and appreciation to the plant, while emphasizing the outstanding developmental achievements of the plant. He noted with satisfaction that similar measures are being taken for the Brünn arms works in order to bring this work up to the same level of performance.' [...]"

Hitler was impressed by the cooperation of the Czech engineers and technicians. Therefore, even in the last days of the war, he readily agreed when, during my visit to the Berlin bunker on the night of April 23/24, 1945, I suggested that I give him the order to take revenge on the leading Czech industrialists and engineers of the Russians and allow them a flight to the American headquarters. As has recently been established, they have indeed arrived on western territory and some of them, like some of their German design counterparts, have ended up in the USA. It can be assumed that they worked there for decades.

It should be noted with some irony that this was probably Hitler's penultimate decree. It was only followed by that decree in which he appointed Grand Admiral Dönitz as his successor."

Let's go back to 1944. The above quote suggests that the SS relinquished power over the armaments industry in the Protectorate by virtue of Hitler's decree. This "giving up" was not complete, if only because nowhere else did SS officers hold such key positions in the state administration. The decree also related to production

and did not confine research work in its own teams and SS facilities that had already been recorded, in such secrecy that not even Speer knew about it. Above all, in the hands of the SS there was still a special research center working on an advanced drive for strategic weapons (Pilsen) and therefore also of strategic importance in terms of a possible increase in Himmler's influence in the German Reich after the eventual use of this weapon possessed on the battlefield - if that term can even be used in the context of such an arsenal. This is of course just an example.



Assembly of the heavy 127 mm guns for submarines in the Pilsen works. (Archive)

Here is another aspect: Speer's armaments inspections in the protectorate did not take over as smoothly and completely as the excerpts quoted might suggest, since Himmler initiated a whole range of diverse "countermeasures", from steps at the highest level to interference in personnel Questions in the factories themselves. An extensive network of Gestapo and SD agents was used to exert pressure. In the Third Reich, banishment to a concentration camp was generally subject to the exclusive competence of the SS and was not subject to any court proceedings, nor was there any possibility of appeal - officially, this was euphemistically referred to as "protective custody". That was an important argument (a

of several), which made it possible to retain some kind of control even in the event that the SS formally renounced management of the factory. There were other means too. Here's another example from Speer:

“The head of the armaments inspection in Prague, General Hernekamp, was appointed my local representative, who was also appointed by me to be the chairman of the armaments commission, ie the head of the highest body summarizing all armaments interests in the protectorate. Of course, he was fiercely opposed by the SS-led leadership of the Protectorate. In the autumn of 1943 there was a heated argument between the Prague administrative center, which was dependent on the SS, and my ministry. On October 8, 1943, after a tiresome discussion between SS Obergruppenfuhrer Karl Hermann Frank [the Higher SS and Police Leader] and myself, a satisfactory agreement for the Protectorate was reached in Berlin. At first, Frank's position was weak because he dared not intervene in the execution of Hitler's production orders. The chronicle of the ministry stated: 'The minister managed to get Frank to recognize Speer's right to issue directives in the armaments field. In doing so, Frank was granted – in order to safeguard the face of the political autonomy of Bohemia and Moravia – that instructions should be addressed through him.'



Spring 1941. The works in Pilsen attracted even an army delegation from the Empire of the Rising Sun. The SS played the host role.

(Archive)



Doctor Voss (with hat and raised hand) receives Karl Hermann Frank. Although an SS officer (Obergruppenfuhrer and 'Higher SS and Police Leader' in the Protectorate), he appeared here as head of a theoretically civilian Protectorate government (in suit, first from left). (Archive)

Despite this agreement, the difficulties did not decrease. In the day-to-day work, it happened more and more often that SS offices ignored my organization. In order to clearly establish my position, I informed Frank on March 2, 1944, as the responsible head of the German administration installed in Prague, of my intention 'for the purpose of combining my departments in the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, the Chairman of the German Armaments Commission, Major General Dipl. To appoint Ing. Hernekamp as my representative for Bohemia and Moravia'. 'Towards the Ministry of Economics and Labour', it said in the enclosed draft of a decree, 'he has the powers that result from his position as chairman of the armaments commission according to my decree of October 29, 1943 on the distribution of tasks in the wartime economy . The commissioner is responsible for the uniform orientation of my offices in the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia.'

A telex from Kammler dated June 13, 1944, in which he informed Himmler that Minister of State Dr. Frank 'to be responsible for special measures for the creation of underground production facilities for armaments factories in the protectorate'. I knew nothing about such agreements."



The plants in Pilsen were guarded by Luftwaffe soldiers, who numbered about a battalion! They were armed with 88 mm guns, which, by the way, were made on the spot. (archive of the author)

This was followed by the "SD offensive", the SS security service, which Himmler used as a kind of secret reserve army to counter Speer's power. The SD not only began to influence individuals in the leadership of the armaments industry, but also in the Speer Ministry itself. He ensured a steady flow of documents intertwined with analyzes of the internal situation and discredited the official business of Speer's Reich Ministry for Armaments and War Production. This internal struggle reached its climax in the summer of 1944. Here are a few summarizing words from Speer, with which he links to one of the decisive SD reports:

"So this attack focused on belittling the activities of General Hernekamp and his departments. Such a task [the management of the armaments factories] can only be carried out by a regional (Prague) agency, not by the armaments inspection department that is subordinate to me, but rather 'such a task [the management of the armaments factories] can be carried out, since all of the particularly political and structural conditions mentioned are not overlooked from Berlin'. In the following we will see that a few weeks later this demand of the security service was satisfied and that henceforth an autonomous economic organization subordinate to the Prague government was to be responsible for armaments in the Czech Republic."



The protection force of the Pilsen works consisted exclusively of Germans - it was about 170 men strong. (Archive)



Assembly of a heavy 210 mm gun "at Skoda". (Archive)

These are important words that testify that the SS was able to largely maintain or regain its independence in the protectorate and subordinate the Czech "principality". This also applied to armaments factories and the scientific research institutions associated with them. The whole affair, including Speer's reports, is above all important evidence of the internal struggle for spheres of influence with Himmler.

And the Czech Republic was the main front of this fight...

Nevertheless, it must be stated that Reichsminister Speer only reveals the proverbial "tip of the iceberg" in his descriptions and is basically limited to the Skoda Group (perhaps he did not know about some projects). However, it is not possible to understand the overall phenomenon of the SS expansion in the Czech Republic and the motives behind it without considering the extent of the expansion measures with regard to the armaments industry. Only then will the "densification" of the facilities

visible, which were connected with the most modern armaments projects. It covered a relatively small area, slightly larger than pre-war East Prussia. In this respect, neither the occupied Polish territory nor Lower Silesia equaled the "Principality". So let's take a closer look by starting by analyzing the intelligence reports. Much information is contained in the reports of industrial espionage of the Polish Home Army, especially with regard to facilities related to aircraft production: 16

Message 2 / 44 (February 1944)

Junkers -

Prague Based on delivery documents for Wawerma machine tools from Pruszków in XII, a Junkers branch in Prague Luben could be discovered.

Message 4 / 44

Industrial area – Prague

- a. Avia – Prague ěakonice / Letisany – aircraft assembly, about 1,000 employees.
- b. ěsko Moravske Strojnice – Prague Karlín / Karolinenthal (Sudetska Street), part of the Skoda concern, manufacture of parts for aircraft engines. About 1,000 employees.
- c. Flugzeugwerke Letow – Prague Bubeneř – part of the Skoda group, allegedly making parts for aircraft engines.
- i.e. Siemens – Prague Karlin – manufactures parts for aircraft engines.
- e. Kolben – Danek – Prague Vysořany, works closely with the Praga company, produces, among other things, electron and aluminum castings.

These facilities are currently being spied on.

Message 1 / 44

Central German Motor Works - Taucha b. Leipsic [...]

Parts for engine production are sent from the Junkers branches in Königshof (Dvřr Králové) and Starkenbach (Jilemnice), among others.

The May 1944 report gives a brief description of a (rather mysterious) large underground facility:

Machine factory and foundry Liesner - Rosenthal b. Liberec (Sudetes)

According to information from the IV, the factory site extends over a length of 3 km between Rosenthal and Reichenberg. All factory premises, with the exception of the foundry and the sawmill in Rosenthal, are underground. The factory produces among other things cylinder blocks for aircraft engines and vehicle engines as well as sea mine casings.

The place name Rosenthal could be identified as Rožmitál pod Těmšínem. This place is near Pýibram (a town important from the point of view of SS research) about 50 km southwest of Prague and about 30 km east of Pilsen. On this occasion it should be mentioned that it was by no means the only underground factory in this area! For the needs of the "Czech" aircraft group "Flugmotoren-Werke Brünn-Lösch" in Brno, for example B. A number of caves were adapted: • "Dinar" near Prague (outlet cave at Kříteín) with an area of 4,400 m²

- "Lei" near Prague (Rastelbinder Cave near Kiriteín) with an area of 1,023 m²
- "Dollar" with an area of 550 m² (Stierfels Cave near Adamstal).
- "Pengö" near Prague (baking oven cave near Brettschlag) with an area of 1,000 m²
- "Drachma" near Sloup (Cowshed Cave) with an area of 1,750 m².
- "Rubel" near Prague (Shoshovka Cave) with an area of 550 m².
- "Lewa" near Holstein (Michaeler Höhle) with an area of 310 m².

Workshops were installed there with the intention of manufacturing aircraft engines. Along with the aircraft industry, there was also an underground complex in the Rabstein area, alias *Zechstein*

Connection. As early as 1943, the operations of the Weser Flugzeugbau company, which (similar to Skoda) was formally part of the Hermann-Göring-Werke, were relocated there. The Junkers Ju-87 and Ju-188 were manufactured underground, as well as parts for the Me-262 jet aircraft. It was probably the first company in the world to mass-produce Focke-Achgelis FA-223 helicopters. For 1945 it was also planned to begin assembling elements for the new Ju-388 strategic bomber.

If we are already talking about secret and advanced facilities of the aircraft industry, we must not forget the still shrouded in mystery "Eger Aircraft Works" in Cheb (Eger). They used a number of underground facilities - two of which, which began to be equipped around the turn of the year 1944/45, were located near Kirchbühl; production could probably only be started in one facility.



The coffin containing Heydrich's body, guarded by an SS honor guard, and the vehicle damaged by the attack. (Archive Pilsen)

In the area there were also tunnels of a motorway planned for the post-war period, which were also used. In addition, numerous legends about undiscovered underground halls in Cheb itself, among the main works, are circulating. At first the factories were mainly concerned with the production of parts for the Me-262, but one day, probably at the end of 1944, it was discontinued. Then the SS appeared "in sight", which significantly increased the level of secrecy and used the underground part of the works for their own, less well-known armaments program. According to the reports coming from the Czech Republic, this could have been connected to the SS research facility in Pilsen. Separately, we should not forget that Eger / Cheb was one of the most important centers of armaments industry in the territory of the Protectorate.

However, the Germans did not manage to complete the largest underground complex, the corridors and halls are still mostly in their raw state. They have a total length of at least a dozen kilometers and form a real maze because they do not intersect at right angles. They make a grand, if oppressive and somber impression. It is a matter of three interconnected facilities near Litoměřice (German: Leitmeritz) in western Czech Republic, which were given the common alias *Richard* .

Available data suggests that two plants were to be moved there – a plant for tank engines from the Auto Union company (the same ones that already had the *Audi* brand at the time) and a processing plant for so-called “refractory metals” (tungsten and molybdenum).) from Osram AG



After Heydrich's death, SS Obergruppenführer Karl Hermann Frank took over his duties. (Archive)

However, the most important and most interesting source of information about facilities in the territory of the "SS Principality", especially those related to "secret weapons", is the already cited Allied report, which contains a compilation of intelligence reports. In the chapter on chemical weapons, information was presented on institutions involved in preparations for chemical warfare (they prove that the SS-controlled Protectorate played a particularly important role in this area); now is the right time to present the rest of the reports about the Protectorate:

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Gorsdorf-Grottau – Sudetengau [Hrádek nad Nisou near Liberec / Reichenberg, i.e. directly behind the Lower Silesian border!]

A German worker employed in Goersdorf, Grottau [im] Sudetengau refused to be transferred to the Peenemünde works on the Baltic Sea.

(Source: Postal Censorship, NYPW 63991. 11/05/1944. Letter from the girlfriend of a prisoner of war. C.)

Now a small exception: two descriptions of facilities that were connected to secret armaments programs in neighboring Slovakia and of course closely linked to those from the protectorate:

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Dubnice - [a facility of] Waffenwerke Brünn AG from Brno (Czech name: "Zbrojovka").

Zbrojovka controls a number of plants throughout [former] Czechoslovakia and is fully under German management. The German 'management' of this company is located at the Plevnik chateau in Považská Bystrica, on the top floor, where a lot of armaments are also kept. As previously reported, part of Zbrojovka's operations in Dubnice (Slovakia) are located underground. In the south-east corner [of the complex], in Hall No. II, there is a separate part, where - according to rumors - elements for some secret weapons are made.

(Source: Allied Governments No. 2326, 08/25/1944.)

Malacky (Malatzka / Kirchlee)

In Malacky (37 km south/southwest of Bratislava/Pressburg, near the branch railway line to Wessely an der March) lies one of the most important areas with concentrated military installations in Slovakia. The artillery proving ground at Malacky was used to test new German 'sling guns' [?]; further research work on similar artillery shells is also being carried out there.

A new camouflage smoke generation artillery is also being tested. A new laboratory for studying rocket projectiles was also built near the railway station.

(Source: OSS, A-24979, 05/08/1944.)

Now let's go back to the facilities in the protectorate: 26 **Neudek**

[Nejdek - about a dozen kilometers from Jáchymov (!) **and about 30 km from Cheb (Eger), in western Czech Republic**]

– Neudeker Wollkämmerei and Kammgarnspinnerei (Comment G-2: The facilities have already been reported). A number of medium-sized aircraft wings could be identified lying in open space next to a siding leading to the operations. It appears to be one of many textile mills in Third Reich-occupied Europe that have been repurposed to produce aircraft components.

(Source: MEW - Intelligence Service Weekly Bulletin 6/22/1944 No. 125. Military Attaché. London #70275, 7/8/1944.)

Pilsen

The Germans converted part of the existing motor vehicle works for the production of large elements for flying bombs [as the V1 was usually called].

(Source: JICAME, 8218-44, 08/20/1944. B-3. C.)

Vitkovitz [Vitkovice]

The Germans converted the municipal rolling mill near Moravská Ostrava into a factory for aerial bomb elements.

(Source: JICAME, 8214, 08/20/1944. B-3, secret.)

The set of sources found in the archives and presented above already makes it possible to create a more or less complete picture of the secret work carried out in this area during the war. It is also possible (partly through the sources presented below) to form an opinion on the importance of the various sites, some of which stand out clearly, and not only in comparison to other establishments in the area; they also represent a very different level of quality compared to all other research on new weapon types conducted throughout the Third Reich. Three institutions can certainly be counted among this "elitist" group, which was also distinguished by its level of secrecy:



After the more or less unsuccessful RAF air raid on Pilsen on April 17, 1943, in which almost 300 aircraft took part (the main targets, including the Skoda works, were not hit!), the anti-aircraft artillery received support in the form of large searchlights and modern ones *Würzburg-Riese radars* - one of which was photographed on the outskirts of the city. (Archive)

1. Pilsen - Site of the most secret SS research facility in all of the Third Reich, working on nuclear physics-based propulsion. It was intended for "guided weapons", which is a clear link to the concept of strategic weapons. The sources contain a number of important facts that indicate the special nature of the project: First, it was kept in such secrecy that the Reich Minister for Armaments and War Production was not even aware of the existence of the Office for the Coordination of Works (T. Office VIII). Secondly, the work was "very advanced", which already represents a revolution in the previous perception of German research in the final phase of the war and German strategic concepts. Incidentally, they must have progressed if Hitler still saw them as a lifeline in April 1945 and appointed Kammler as his special representative for this area. What type of weapon could it have been? It was certainly not intended to transport TNT. Incidentally, the American report (in its other part) contains a very clear reference to this, since it mentions Pilsen as a research center for chemical weapons delivery systems! However, that is not the only interesting consideration in this context. The report (especially Voss' testimony) also shows that Pilsen was a kind of "scientific center" of the project.

After all, the SS had full control in the Czech Republic, so the choice of location is not surprising. However, the context indicates that the facility was within the city, so it must have been part of a larger whole.

So far we have had the "Lower Silesian" description (Volume II) with a very well developed research infrastructure (apart from Ludwikowice / Ludwigsdorf one could see the "space facility" of Professor Strughold in Szczawno / Bad Salzbrunn and the research and development department mentioned by Professor Mojdawa of the Jägerstab, which was working on "new air forces" nearby) and the construction of a future production complex.



The Germans also attached great importance to protecting the works by means of counter-espionage, and in particular the top-secret SS agency camouflaged within.

That was the main task of the numerous Gestapo local offices. In addition, it was duplicated by a fully independently acting semi-conspiratorial SD body with the highest powers. This private photo taken by one of the officers commemorates some of that staff. The SD diamonds can be seen on the sleeves – however, most officers for operational tasks appeared exclusively in civilian clothes and used false personal details. History shows that this system was amazingly effective - Patton may not have known what the SS were actually guarding so closely in Pilsen. (Archive)



1943: Waffen-SS officers who oversaw operations in Pilsen. (Archive)

On the other hand, practically not a word was mentioned about the scientific basis, which could not have been limited to a few people! In Pilsen, on the other hand, we had the opposite situation - the scientific team itself would have e.g. B. cannot do much without the infrastructure to test its innovative solutions. There is of course no absolute proof that both elements represent two halves of a whole, but it would be difficult to overlook this aspect. Regardless, this whole aspect sort of reveals a new leaf in the history of war. Hardly anyone could have guessed earlier that the SS was the scientific research avant-garde of the Third Reich.

2. The reasons that made it seem necessary for the SS to set up their most important scientific center in the Protectorate also make it necessary to look at the hitherto completely unknown aspect of work on a nuclear weapon in the Third Reich from the same perspective. It is about the research center on the site of the former mine near Jáchymov (German: Sankt Joachimsthal), which has already been mentioned. It was headed directly by Werner Heisenberg, one of the most outstanding scientists of the Third Reich. The text below suggests that this top-secret facility was one of the greatest achievements - which is certainly why it was so top-secret! It was not about theoretical work, but about building a bomb! Incidentally, even in this case it is difficult to overlook certain associations with the present-day territory of Poland – with facilities that Western researchers are basically unaware of. Three facilities come into focus: the underground operations near ŸagaŸ (Sagan) and Mosty, and the *giant* in the Owl Mountains (another underground complex!). The last two locations were described in Volume II - we will return to the possible role of the *giant* in nuclear research in the next chapter. Mosty was named directly in one of the (Polish) documents as “Laboratories working on the atomic bomb

worked" mentioned. The information about yagaÿ, on the other hand, is the result of the latest research.

In the book "Podziemne królestwo Hitlera" ("Hitler's Underground Kingdom" - Volume I) I described a startling note I found in a US intelligence report on underground facilities (also in present-day Poland!). There is talk of a secret underground facility that was hidden in the forest about 15 km from yagaÿ. The report also included the phrase "production of nuclear weapons" and mentioned the protection of secrecy associated with the experimental work.

⁴⁴ These three locations (plus Aussig near Jáchymov) convey a picture of a hitherto completely unknown aspect of German nuclear research, with high-ranking specialists only being directly mentioned in the case of the Czech location. We can therefore assume that this was a leading institution - besides, as already mentioned, it had very concrete results to show. Most importantly, in each of the cases mentioned there was concrete talk of nuclear weapons manufacture, which was never the case in the context of Heigerloch, Gottow, Berlin and other places in the West later known to Western researchers! Kowary (Schmiedeberg in Riesengebirge - described in the second volume) and the episode with a mysterious transport that sank to the bottom of the Oder on August 17, 1944 also fit into this picture. That day, near Lake Dýbie, an Allied bomb sank a ship sailing upstream. As was only revealed after inspecting its cargo several years later, it was transporting, among other things, 500 kg of precisely manufactured graphite rods.

3. The third area, which concerned a very advanced and urgent research project carried out in the Protectorate, was the work on "stealth" materials (which reduced the radar visibility of aircraft and ships; loosely speaking, it was about planes and ships that were "invisible" to radar). In the Third Reich, research was carried out on such a solution in many of the institutions already described, but Professor's research team took first place

Hüttig at the Technical University in Prague, which also cooperated with the research teams in Brno, Dresden and Breslau (the Institute for Ceramics at the Technical University there). I would therefore like to return to the Allied intelligence analysis of German "stealth" technology, which described this topic. On this occasion, for the first time, we have a chance to discuss the question of the Soviet "hunt" for these key technologies. This results on the one hand from the described secrecy measures after the war and the difficulty of getting hold of sources (the report originated in 1947), but on the other hand also from a note about one of the employees - Dr.

Friedrich from Osram AG, who was directly said to have cooperated with the Russians shortly after the war. Let's move on to the description of the project itself: 23 "4.3. Technical University in Prague and Brno (Czechoslovakia).

Due to several conditions reflecting the general political and military situation in Czechoslovakia, as well as certain investigations of previous intelligence teams, the possibilities of spying on Czechoslovakia and its scientific research

Even with the help of the very influential and willing office of the American military attaché, it has proved impossible to personally contact any of the scientists involved in this work, or to locate any of the laboratories. Only some very general information could be obtained, which was presented in one of the following chapters. [...]

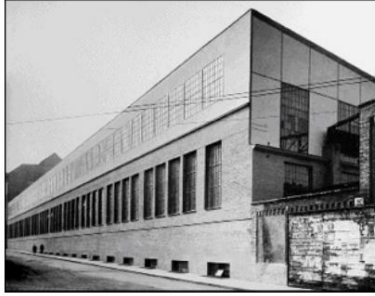
6.0 Materials that absorb [electromagnetic] radiation. In the early stages of research into 'anti-radar materials', attempts were made to produce materials characterized by a [corresponding] dielectric constant and [magnetic] Distinguished permeability when saturating the available dielectrics with iron. Such a material was z. B. used in the 'Waffeln' from the 'Wesch' material. Similar works have been made

implemented on a significant scale in the IG Farben plants [near Frankfurt], where plastics such as polyvinyl chloride or moltiprene were saturated with iron compounds [the term 'carbonyl iron' was used incorrectly and cannot be translated unequivocally] in order to achieve a low ratio of 'Epsilon' to 'My'. However, this approach turned out to be completely ineffective, since adding iron particles to the plastic increased the value of both constants more or less equally. A similar concept, where plastic was made electrically conductive by adding conductive particles (lampblack, aluminum dust, graphite) turned out to be similarly ineffective, increasing the 'epsilon' value almost as fast as the conductivity. [...] The research work undertaken by the Institute for Inorganic and Analytical Chemistry at the German Technical University in Prague, the August Toeppler Institute in Dresden and [...] the Osram company in Berlin pursued a more fundamental approach. An abbreviated description of this work was given below in 6.1. presented.





The SS spoiled the Skoda workers in a way that even German workers were rarely treated to! On the photos you can see souvenirs from numerous stage performances, receptions, the company sports team, one of the selected recreation centers (visiting which was granted for good work results, from which a total of 43,000 Czech workers benefited) and a modern medical center. (Archive)



In Pilsen, of course, investments were also made in production development - here a final assembly plant built during the war, which was very modern for the time. (Archive)



Pilsen - assembled Hetzer self-propelled howitzers. (Archive)



The Pilsen plants also had their own small underground facility, but this was used exclusively for ammunition testing. (Archive)

So far, Professor Hüttig's institute in Prague has made the most significant contribution to research into new materials that absorb electromagnetic waves. There are reasons to believe that the members of both the Prague Institute and the August Toepler Institute in Dresden are [still] very active in this area of research. Unfortunately, given the circumstances, it has proved impossible

to get credible and detailed information about the work progress.

6.2. At the end of the war, an unimaginably large number of oxides, hydroxides, sulfides, and compounds of nickel, cobalt, and ferrite were prepared and studied in detail. In this context, the group of Professor Hüttig and Dr. Sedlatschek in Prague hundreds of such materials. [...] Among them, the following substances were recommended as most promising: gamma- Fe_2O_3 [...], magnesium ferrites (mixtures of MgCO_3 and $\text{Fe}_2(\text{CO}_3)_3$), manganese ferrites (MnFe_2O_4). More complex compounds were also investigated, leading to the addition of some oxides to the ferrites mentioned above, such as e.g. B. CuO .

6.3. Although the initial aim of this research was to discover materials whose 'epsilon' would have been equal to the constant 'My' at different wavelengths and whose impedance would have matched the equivalent values of air while maintaining a high absorption coefficient (377 ohms), Way other materials with interesting properties can be produced. Eg: Professor Kelka and Prof. Sedlatschek from Prague were able to observe that the addition of CuO to MnFe_2O_4 results in materials in which the permeability and the dielectric constant are proportional to the second power of the wavelength. It is also claimed that materials have been created whose dielectric properties depend to a large extent on temperature, magnetic field and pressure. Due to the fact that most of this work was carried out in Czechoslovakia and the Soviet zones [occupation zones] in Germany [rather: in the Third Reich], there is unfortunately no precise information about these substances. 6.4. The main research work on gamma- Fe_2O_3 and MnFe_2O_4 was led by Professor Hüttig and a large group of scientists in Czechoslovakia, including Dr. K. Sedlatschek, the engineer F. Wagenknecht, Dr. E. Herman, Dr. V. Brenner, Dr. K

Pschera, Prof. Fleger, Dr. Wiechowski, Dr. Wenzel, Dr. Meier, Dr. Gudden, Dr. Krafka and Dr. Helen Some of these people are

Soviet prisoners of war, some under house arrest or under close surveillance by the Russians and Czechs. Many have recently accepted offers for posts as scientists in the Soviet Union. With winter approaching, others will follow them.”

4. As the fourth area of work, which was not only technically advanced, but could also have led to a breakthrough at the front, and at the same time was particularly well represented both in the protectorate and in the area directly attached to the German Reich, preparations are underway for one to consider chemical warfare, although this direction is not related to any single facility.

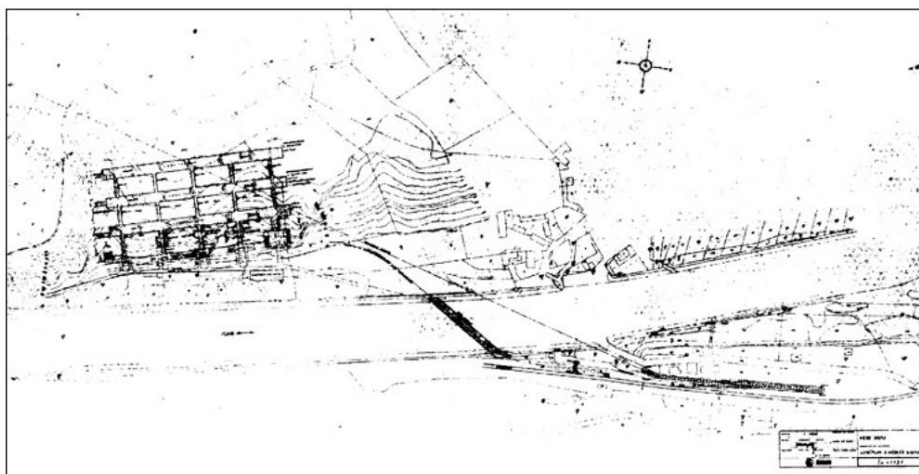


Pilsen is occupied by Patton's troops. (Archive)

In the intelligence report cited in the chemical weapons chapter, there are specific descriptions of about 25 entities linked to this issue, of which no fewer than nine (almost 40 percent, if the reports are a reasonably representative picture deliver!) were on Czech territory. As a reminder: This is about Tannwald (Czech:

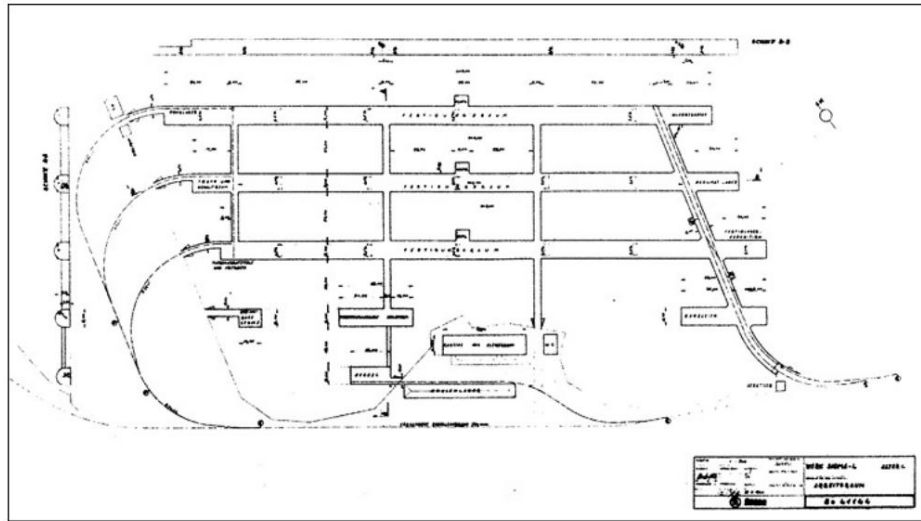
Tanvald), Brno, Cakovica (if the spelling is correct), Džjín (Tetschen Bodenbach), Kolín, Pardubice (Pardubitz), Zámky, Zlín (Zlin / Gottwaldov) and Pilsen. The latter location deserves special attention as the report mentions work on chemical weapons delivery systems (on a warhead of sorts). So it could be related to (Kammmler's) SS research center in that city, where work was being done on a new strategic weapons engine. In any case, such a large percentage of facilities related to the preparations for this new phase of the war located in the area of interest to us is quite shocking. As a result, the Protectorate must be regarded as the most important territory for the realization of the above-mentioned preparations - which is certainly related to the fact that the Wehrmacht viewed this program with a certain disgust, while the SS viewed it with enthusiasm!

After emphasizing the fundamentals in the four points above, another, somewhat more general association emerges. Just as the analysis of all the sources has allowed these most important (priority) list areas of interest, elements are now appearing that connect these topics with each other - as if they all had a "common denominator". They paint a picture of a particular, relatively coherent trend that may reflect the long-term interests of the SS.



Due to the general tendency to move the armaments industry underground, the Skoda group was to share this fate. In the spring of 1944 drilling work was carried out for a large underground complex near Beroun (Beraun) /

Srbsko south of Prague (see map). Three facilities from the *Sigma* (*Sigma I*, *Sigma L*, *Sigma III*) and *Ro* series with a total volume of half a million cubic meters were to be built. The drawing shows the original plan of the *Sigma I* facility with halls each 165 m long and 12 m wide - resulting in 4,000 m² and 35,000 m³. (Archive)



Original plan of the *Sigma L* (*Sigma II*) plant with a planned volume of 200,000 m³. (Archive)



Plan of the facilities *Sigma III* (the smaller, although both assembly halls were distinguished by a length of not less than 280 m) and *Ro*. The first was to produce barreled weapons, the second aircraft engines. In both cases, a full-gauge railway should lead underground. The facilities were not completed.

(Archive)

However, this concludes our “infiltration” of that carried out in the Protectorate

Research work is by no means complete! Another very important source on the subject is a detailed report by the British intelligence service, which is the result of a trip by a group of experts to the Czech Republic right after the war (between November 16 and November 9). December 1945). Although, as the author himself admits, it was not to be expected that the Russians and Czechs would share their secrets, it is nevertheless a very important source. However, let us leave the word (or rather the "quill") to the author: 45

Introduction

The trip was arranged by the Foreign Ministry after the Czech government rejected a proposal to send BIOS teams [BIOS is a branch of the British Intelligence Service] to spy on German activity in Czech armaments factories. However, she was willing to agree to a writer's visit.

The cancellation is understandable as the Czechs were very upset with the way in which the Soviet and American forces managed the setup of many of their factories, removing equipment or simply taking people they were interested in without any such action with the Czech Government to consult [In the Pilsen area there were special troops of the Patton army, to which we shall come later]. One could argue in such a situation that such material constitutes enemy property and thereby legal spoils of war, but the Czechs countered (and they were certainly at least partly right) that such measures should be agreed with them, and that some of the mentioned material was Czech property. The final explanation is that the Americans took significant amounts of equipment from Pilsen and Pýíbram (Pibrans) and also deported 37 personnel to the United States. Among them were Czechs.

As a result, the Czech Ministry of Defense knows neither what is still in the country nor who was taken away by the Allies. Their intelligence service has only been operating in Prague for a few months and hasn't had time to set up its own

to conduct investigations.

This situation is illustrated by the following example: The Czech secret service was not aware of the existence of a personnel file in Pýibram before the mission reached that location. The existence of the file came as a surprise to the Czech intelligence officer who accompanied the mission.

goal of the mission

The main objective of the project was to obtain all possible information about the activities of the concern Herman Göring [Werke] and Waffen Union Skoda - Brno, paying special attention to the test facility in Pýibram.

Explaining the purpose of the visit to the Czech authorities, it was underlined that no Czech military secrets should be disclosed and it was left to the Czechs to decide to reveal the results of their research or keep them to themselves. When they began to appreciate this approach, the state leadership was very supportive and offered any help they could in conducting the reconnaissance efforts.

The author was warmly received by the Chief of Staff, General Boýk, who ordered his staff to provide us with any assistance they could. All departments [of the General Staff] also granted them without problems. Despite the lack of transportation, the mission was provided with a vehicle, which they greatly appreciate
knew.

Places Visited and Personnel Interviewed All visits and official interviews were organized in consultation with Czech military intelligence, with a Czech officer present on each visit. The headquarters of the Skoda company in Prague and its plants in Plzeň were visited, where interviews were held with many senior staff members. The test center in Pýibram was inspected, and two visits were made to the Zbrojovka company headquarters in Prague.

The works in Brno could not be reached due to bad weather, which made the journey very difficult. Interviews were held with the following persons in the Czech Ministry of Defense: 1. Dr. W. Voss - head of the Waffen Union, 2nd engineer K. Staller - Voss' deputy, 3rd engineer Musel - administrative director of the company Zbrojovka, 4th engineer Sidlek - žeskomoravska Kolben Danek [CKD], 5th dr. Frey-Jawa.

The reports of these visits and discussions are included in the relevant chapters or appendices. [...]

"Hermann-Göring-Werke" and "Skoda - Brünn Waffen-Union" The Herman Göring Group was active in three areas of industry:

1. Steel Industrial Works,
2. Engineering,
3. Shipbuilding.

The steel works were Dr. Kornier reports, one of which was the Vítkovice (Vitkovitz) facility in Czechoslovakia. The area of the ship industry was headed by Dr. Guido Schmidt. The 'engineering sector' included a number of important companies, such as B.

Rheinmetall - Borsig, the Gustloff works, etc. Skoda, Zbrojovka and similar companies were gradually swallowed up as the industries of the conquered states were integrated with the economy of the Third Reich. In 1936, Pleiger and Voss were heads of this branch, the former as technical general manager, and Voss as chairman of the supervisory board. Voss obviously got this post as the most outstanding accountant in Berlin. In 1938 he became Director General for Administrative Affairs and Commercial Affairs [of the group] in Berlin. Pleiger, on the other hand, continued to be responsible for technical issues. It was around this time that a battle for supreme power ignited between the two.

Finally, around 1942, Göring divided Skoda and Zbrojovka

from the main company and thereby called the 'Waffen Union' into being. Pleiger remained at headquarters while Voss took over as head of the Waffen Union. [...] This company was [formally] founded with a capital of half a million marks. Their offices, employing about 60 people, were in Berlin, while Voss had its own headquarters in Prague.

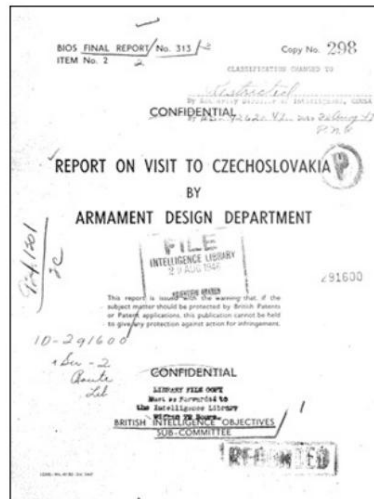
This company owned majority stakes in both Skoda and Zbrojovka, but Göring sought to increase the stake to at least 75 percent. It all seems simple, but in reality the financial relationships between Skoda, Zbrojovka, the banks and the state were very complex. Skoda's total capital was 687.5 million crowns, Zbrojovka's about 300 million crowns.

Under Voss' leadership, the Waffen Union became an independent organizational structure that maintained contact with Berlin on all matters of production and research, though not through the 'Herman-Göring-Werke'. Voss emphasized this in particular.

[Of course, Voss' already mentioned relationships with the SS and Himmler personally, as well as in the area of research and the development of new projects with Schwab's technical office and the FEP position at the SS leadership main office must also be taken into account. After all, the location of the scientific headquarters of the most secret, downright futuristic SS research project on the site of his works could not be a coincidence.] Göring himself maintained some contact with the Waffen Union through his representative General Bodenschatz, who, however, had no executive powers; there are many indications that he was given this post more as a token of personal friendship. Apparently he came to Prague three or four times a year, but he treated these trips as vacations.

dr Voss claimed that he had direct contact with Speer and Saur on issues related to the fulfillment of orders [armament orders]. This may well be true, since there is much to indicate that Speer visited Prague relatively often. However, there were many mechanisms that industry up

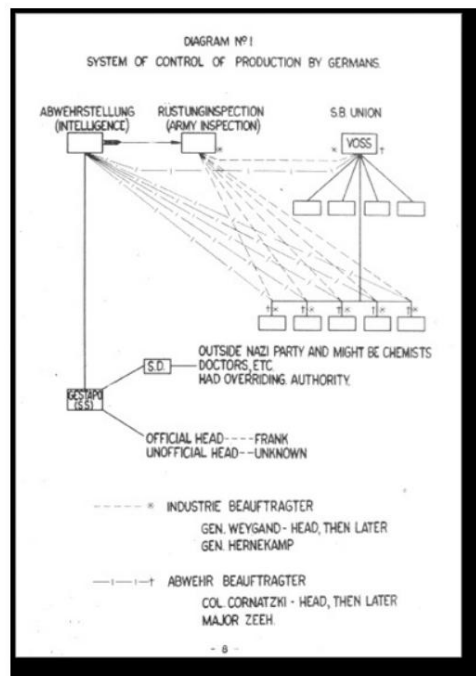
Czech territory, and as a part of it, the Waffen Union was also in the above-mentioned network of dependencies. Engineer Mayer and Dr [Walther] Pohl apparently held supreme power over production and research in the Protectorate.



Front page of the detailed British intelligence report on the spying on armaments industry facilities in the occupied Czech Republic. (NARA / BIOS)

Control over the Czech defense industry Diagram

No. 1 shows the control machinery [over the industry] with regard to the Waffen Union. It is representative of the general principles of management in all large companies. The armaments inspection [at the Speer Ministry] can be compared to a normal inspection department, with Chart #2 listing the names of key people in this structure [The charts are reproduced in the book]. As can be seen, General Hernekamp was directly responsible for management, and had his plenipotentiaries in all factories [This, of course, only refers to direct cooperation with the Reich Ministry for Armaments and War Production, which was the subject of constant rivalry with the SS, such as Speer describes it in the quotes printed above].



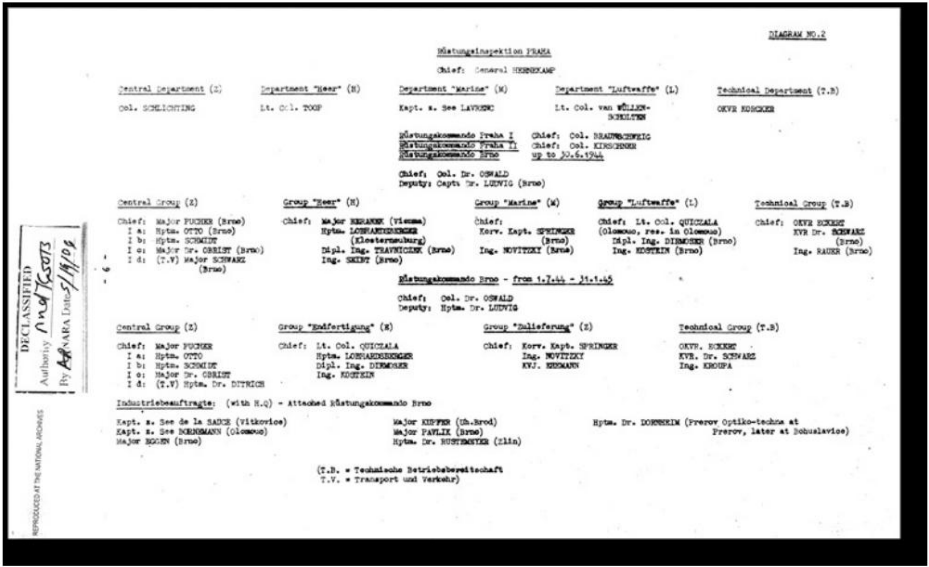
British scheme to illustrate the control system of Czech armaments facilities (mainly with regard to security issues). (NARA / BIOS)

Parallel to this control mechanism, but completely independently, operated the 'defense center' - an intelligence department whose tasks included strict production monitoring, notification of reduced labor productivity and suspicious individuals, and countermeasures against sabotage.

["Defense Unit" literally means a local organizational unit, which in this case had no intelligence character, but dealt with counterintelligence]. She cooperated with the Gestapo, which had executive powers [arrests]. It was an unusually powerful organizational structure that was greatly feared because many of its representatives went unrecognized.

Above the Gestapo was the 'Ober-Gestapo' (SD) [The superiority of the security service over the secret police was not a widespread phenomenon, but rather of an informal character and resulted from the peculiarity of the official assignments in the Protectorate - from the fact that the key positions at of the Gestapo were occupied by officials of the SD due to a lack of personnel, among other things. However, it was not a

Surveillance structure led to even greater terror [not surprising given that it made effective attacks even against Speer]. In each factory there was one of their representatives, often referred to as a 'secret manager'. They possessed a power that enabled them to question management, the decisions those of people much higher up. It was reported that the SD leader ordered the arrest of several hours of Frank himself [who was the Higher SS and Police Leader for the Protectorate and who, after Heydrich's death, effectively embodied the supreme power of the state]. These people from the security service were not necessarily party members and did not wear identification badges. While many of them are known, the majority cannot be identified as their way of life seemed ordinary; they avoided drawing attention to themselves. [...] It should not go unmentioned that practically all of them managed to flee before the final fall of the Third Reich. Due to the fact that surely all of them had false papers, it will be difficult to track them down. The personal details of the following SD officers who performed control tasks in the aforementioned facilities are known:



The Speer Ministry's parallel control system, which oversaw the role of the SS

defied. (NARA / BIOS)

Mr. Wolf – Brno, dr.

Koch-Podberezova, Dr.

Witt - Považská Bystrica,

From Lüdingshausen -

Prague, G. Kordeman - Skoda (Prague).

Her current whereabouts are unknown.

Small firms in the Protectorate were organized in groups to facilitate resource distribution.

Later, in Speer's time, the entire armaments industry was assigned to eight districts depending on location [...]. Bohemia and Moravia formed a circle headed by Malzacher [This was the formal civilian representative Speers also in the area of the Generalgouvernement]. [...]

Work and working conditions The

Germans insisted on employing as many women as possible. They set a 'quota' of 70 percent, but it was never met. Regardless of their education, women were forced to work, even if they had two children to look after. It has been reported that Minister Bertsch [the Economy Minister in the Protectorate Government] Dr. Voss' wife wanted to work in the factory, although this could have been the result of envy. Many factories adopted a 70- to 72-hour work week, with shifts lasting 10 to 12 hours. [...]

All factories operated at full production capacity with minimal technical maintenance. When the Czech manager or foreman did not reach the production capacity deemed possible by the German supervisor, he was replaced by a German specialist.

The workers were also given extra food, cigarettes and the like. 'bribed' to boost production. This is how the high production results of some factories are explained.

Various information

[Here mainly descriptions of "intelligence targets", ie interesting facilities in the Czech Republic and Slovakia were presented. Each item is provided with a "black list number" which was printed in the book at the end of each report. Probably it's about numbers on the list of targets of the United States Strategic Bombing Survey (?)]:

1.

Skodawerke Semtin - this factory is not related [directly] to Skoda, its owner is 'Explosia Synthesia'. ICI [a well-known American chemical company] owns about 30 percent of the capital. ICI has already contacted this company. According to reports, these plants are very advanced and deal with the production of propellants and explosives.

They cooperated with Skoda in the filling of projectiles and the like. The main manager is called Ales - he is a very good, albeit older engineer who has now been relieved of his post by the new management and has moved to Prague. No information could be obtained on powder in the form of black briquettes. [The last sentence need not refer to powder at all, but may just as well refer to a special explosive called "Nipolit" which was used solely for diversion purposes. It was a mechanically strong combination of explosives and plastic, which was produced in the form of various inconspicuous objects - from "charcoal briquettes" to shoe soles. Incidentally, the aforementioned plants also developed the almost legendary Semtex explosive, which became famous after the war. In reality, however, it was no more technically sophisticated than any other plastic explosive: it is enough to mix fine-crystalline hexogen or nitropenta (weaker, more rarely used) with a "plasticizer" in the form of some oily substance, Vaseline, etc. to impart "utility properties" to a substance that, unlike TNT, does not melt at elevated temperature and cannot be cast - hexogen is about 30 percent stronger than TNT. However, plastic is only suitable for pioneering applications.

What is little known is that all commonly used plastic explosives are highly neurotoxic - amounts of just a few milligrams lead to cardiac arrhythmias. By the way, nitropenta is the main component of a strong heart remedy].
Number on the list: 2 / 131.

2.

Dubnica – underground factory built by Skoda before the war. It was taken over by the Germans and later used. When the Soviet troops pushed deep into Slovakia, it was completely destroyed by the Germans. No. 2 / 464.

3.

Myrany – part of the Skoda works in Pilsen. There, projectiles and fuses were filled. Number: see above.

4.

Bratislava (Pressburg) – the SAA plants there were moved to Považská Bystrica before the war, only administrative facilities remained. Number: see above.

5.

Vítkovice (Vitkovitz) – Skoda had no operations there, but may have owned coal mines, for which this region is known. The main facility is the steel works in Vítkovice, which belonged to the Hermann Göring works. However, the factories have no [direct?] connection with Skoda. Its manager was a certain Ringhoffer - a German, also a director at Skoda. No. C2/788.

6.

Praevé Society. [Your facilities?] were in Prague and on the outskirts. It is part of the Jawa Group, which manufactures engines and motorcycles. [...] No. C2/789.

7.

Elektro-Mechanik Reichenberg [described in one of the previously printed reports of the Polish Home Army as a large underground facility in Rosental bei Reichenberg / Rožmitál pod Těmšínem]. Considered an important research facility, but in Soviet hands. No. C2/790.

8th.

Jawa factory in Prague - headed by Dr. Frey. In addition to motorcycles, it also manufactures aircraft parts and employs around 3,000 workers. No. C2/791.

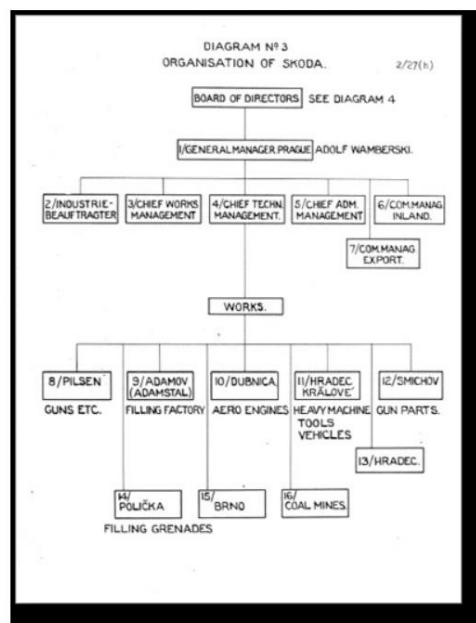
9.

Československá Zbrojovka Strakonice – has no direct connection with Československá Zbrojovka in Brno. Before the war it mainly manufactured aircraft machine guns - type unknown. No. C2/792.

10

Uberský Brod – a subsidiary of the above mentioned works. She made aircraft machine guns and bicycle parts.

[One could add to this list the Československá Zbrojovka works in Prague, which were involved in a more vague way in the production of Tiger armored fighting vehicles, proving ground in Benešov, 40 km east of Prague, the heavy SS ⁴⁶ was also tested] [...]



The organizational chart of the Skoda Group from the UK report. (NARA / BIOS)

Skoda (Appendix)

[This part of the report has been greatly abbreviated because it

mostly minor information related to the main topic of this book]: The Skoda headquarters in Prague was visited in the presence of Messrs. Hromadko and Baxant. Both are members of the new management committee and have held important positions in the company. Initially, they were unwilling to answer questions, but after receiving instructions from Czech military intelligence, they commented on a number of questions - see Appendix No. IV [this Appendix deals primarily with the facility in Pýšbram (Pibrans) and was discussed below].

[...] Some additional information could be obtained later during the visit to Pilsen. [...]

Orders: These

came directly from the High Command of the Wehrmacht [OKW], production was usually based on German technical drawings. [...] A list of the OKW personnel responsible for the orders has been added as an attachment. [...]

Employment:

Skoda employed a significant number of skilled workers and around 10 percent were women. At the end of the war, this figure rose to 20 percent. There were neither foreign workers nor prisoners of war. The percentage of people employed in armaments production increased from 60 percent in 1943 to 90 percent in 1945. The data below shows the total number of people employed at all Skoda plants. Czech military intelligence was not able to distribute these numbers to the individual factories:

1941 – 38,740 men; 4,622 women.

1942 – 41,764 men; 8,958 women.

1943 – 44,573 men; 10,066 women.

1944 – 55,842 men; 13,165 women.

1945 – 64,132 men; 13,724 women.

[These numbers are quite shocking - almost 78,000 people in the

year 1945! It was in fact one of the largest armaments companies of the Third Reich!]. [...]

Concepts and research:

All of the interviewed Skoda personnel underlined in particular that they were not doing any important work [?!]. With regard to secret weapons (V1, V2), the staff admitted that they may have subcontracted certain elements, but they did not know what these parts were used for.

Key people: Adolf

Wamberski, 60 years old, was Skoda's chief administrator during the war. He worked for this company for 30 years and was considered a very talented engineer, designer and good organizer. He enjoys the reputation of a good Czech.

<p align="center"><u>DIAGRAM 2</u> <u>LINE OF PERSONNEL OF THE GERMAN SYSTEM COMMAND (GEL AND GEL)</u> <u>AND NEGOTIATED WITH THE HEADQUARTERS ABOUT QUESTIONS OF RESEARCH</u></p>	
<u>GEL - GEL</u>	
Oberst Dipl. Ing. Schneider	Wa Prüf
Oberst Wöllersheim	Wa Prüf
Hptm. Det. Dr. Hesselbach	Wa Prüf 1/1
Oberstleut. Zugschütz	Wa Prüf 1/1
Hptm. Bönke	Wa Prüf 1/1
Oberst. Pieper	Wa Prüf 1/1
Inspektor Gumbries	Wa Prüf 1/1
Ing. Weiss	Wa Prüf 1/1
Mjr. Dipl. Ing. Wäcker	Wa Prüf 1/1
Oberstleut. Würzburg	Wa Prüf 1/1
Mjr. Borgehausen	Wa Prüf 1/1
Oberstleut. Stör	Wa Prüf 1/1
Ing. Steingewiss	Wa Prüf 1/1
Inspektor Jatsch	Wa Prüf 1/1
Ing. Seibt	Wa Prüf 1/1
<u>Anti-aircraft guns</u>	
Oberst. Ing. Dr. Kahlert	GEL - TIR/Flak 1
Pl. Stabs. Ob. Ing. Fils	GL - Flak 2
Pl. Stabsing. Schulz	GL - Flak 2/II
Pl. Stabsing. Helm	GL - Flak 2
Ing. Westphal	GL - Flak 2
Oblt. Müller	GL - Flak 2
Pl. Ob. Stabsing. Hofmann	GL - Flak 2
Pl. Stabsing. Reuther	GL - Flak 2
Pl. Stabsing. Barthel	GL - Flak 2
Ing. Wolf	GL - Flak 2
Ing. Markov	GL - Flak 2
Pl. Stabsing. Windisch	GL - Flak 2
Hptm. Gasser	GL - Flak 2
Ing. Burghoff	GL - Flak 2
Hptm. Hofmann	GL - Flak 2
Ing. Bentsch	GL - Flak 2
Ing. Hentsch	GL - Flak 2
Ing. Wengert	GL - Flak 2
<u>Ammunition and Ballistics</u>	
General Heydenreich	Chief Wa Prüf (Ammunition)
Oberst Gail	STBO - Techn. Amt. Arbeitsgruppe Entwicklung

Ammunition and Ballistics (cont.)	
Oberst de Hauke	Wa Prüf 1
Hptm. Bockisch	-
Hptm. Dr. Zureyck	-
Lt. Krall	-
Min. Rat Dr. Langner	-
Dipl. Ing. Beyer	-
Dipl. Ing. Sita	-
Oberstlt. Detakorn	Wa Prüf (Bau) 1
Hptm. Lange	-
Hptm. Knapke	-
Ob. Brl. Leitner	Wa Prüf 1 (Bau) 1
Ob. Brl. Erdmann	Wa Prüf 1 (Bau) 1/2
Oberst Flass	Wa Prüf (Bau) 1 / 1/2/1d
Dipl. Ing. Flieschinger	Wa Prüf 1 (Bau) 2 A
Dipl. Ing. Hage	Wa Prüf 1 (Bau) 1 B
Hpt. Fromm	Wa Prüf 1
Dipl. Ing. Leitner	Wa Prüf 1/III
Mjr. Kasse	-
Oberst. Dr. Ing. Schubert	Wa Prüf (Bau) 3/4
Dr. Alben	Wa Prüf 1
Ob. Brl. Dr. Ing. Seel	Wa Prüf 1/2
Ltn. Jahnke	Wa Prüf 1/2 E
von der Hagen	Wa Prüf 1/2 E
Oberst. Schmalz	Wa Prüf 1/2/1d
Dr. Ing. Geberke	Wa Prüf 3
Stabslt. Diefenauer	Wa Prüf 1/2
Obst. Karmeyer	-
Oberstlt. Krüger	Wa Prüf 11
Ing. Hartmann	Heeres-technisches Büro
Leut. Dipl. Ing. Hoyer	OKM/a 1/2 AP
Ing. Heirich	-
Oberst Winter	OK-Polizei-Akademie Brönn
Mjr. Dr. Henschel	-
Mjr. Dr. Jätschauer	OK-Artillerieschule
Obstlt. von Sacke	Wa Prüf 1/III
Ob. Ing. Brl. Weisbrocker	-
Hptm. Schöndt	-
Hptm. Lang	Wa Prüf 1/VI
Hptm. Diers	-
Obst. Preiss	-
Leut. Hester	Wa Prüf Heut II
Leut. Hahn	Wa Prüf Heut I/2
Oberleut. Lerner	Wa Prüf Heut II
Obstlt. Gogarten	Wa Prüf 1
Obstlt. Grottel	-
Dr. Ing. Weirich	Wa A
Ing. Seibt	Wa Prüf 1/VI
Obst. Betsch	Wa Prüf 1/VI
Min. Rat Dipl. Ing. Barth	Wa Prüf 1/VI/III

Ammunition and Ballistics (cont.)	
Hpt. Dipl. Ing. Kohl	Wa Prüf 1/VI/III
Hpt. Vogel	A.1/2/2 Inf.
Ing. Görtner	Wa Prüf 1/VI
Ob. Brl. Henschel	Wa Prüf 1
Hptm. Lang	Wa Prüf 1/III
Dr. Böhle	Wa Prüf 1/VI
Mjr. Böhmke	Wa Prüf 1/III
Ing. Wundt	Wa Prüf 1
Obst. Kowalski	-
Obst. Seig	Wa Prüf 11
Ing. Lora	-
Ing. Netzer	-
OKM - Guss	
1. Research	
Oberst. Klein	OKM A Wa A 1 AF
Hptlt. Fink	* A Wa IAD
Hptlt. Hauer	* A Wa A 1 B
Oberst. Ingmann	* A Wa A 1 AF
Dipl. Ing. Hoyer	* - Artillerieamt
Dipl. Ing. Koch	* - A Wa B III
Kpt. auf des Kreysing	* - A Wa A 1
Mar. Oberleut. Steinhart	* - A Wa I & F
Dipl. Ing. Dr. Weirich	* - A Wa A 1 B
Korw. Kpt. Dr. Heyder	* - Mar. Stat. AWA 1/2
Kpt. Lt. Juhl	-
Kpt. Lt. Konrad	-
Mar. Ob. Brl. Jungmayer	* - AWA III
Kpt. Lt. Henschel	-
Ob. Brl. Heilmann	-
Ob. Brl. Heine	-
Ob. Ing. Heidebach	-
Kpt. Lt. Böcker	-
Min. Rat Dr. Hühner	OKM
2. Promotion	
Kontr.-Leut. Hauke	OKM
Oberleut. Gorden	* - A Wa IAD
Oberst. Henschelmann	* - A Wa IAD
Dipl. Ing. Fink	* - A Wa IAD
Dipl. Ing. Hühner	* - A Wa IAD
Leut. Dipl. Ing. Steinhart	* - A Wa IAD

A list of people who contacted Skoda in connection with research projects. Only Wehrmacht personnel were named, complete registers of the SS have not been preserved. (NARA / BIOS)

Walter Pohle. The name was sometimes pronounced without the 'e'. In the last years of the war he was Skoda's technical director general and worked in Prague. A very bright engineer, but instilled hatred and fear in everyone. He was previously responsible for supplying raw materials to the Waffen Union. He was Saur's close friend with whom he was direct

worked together. [...] He left Prague on April 23 and was shot in Bavaria by the SS for leaving his post without orders.

Engineer Vilem Hromadkxo. Before the war and during the first two years of the war he was head of Skoda. He later came under suspicion, which is why he was arrested by the Gestapo for six months. Finally, through Goering's personal intervention, he was released. He is currently back at the Prague headquarters. [...]

In the further part of the report, personnel lists appear - they contain, among other things, the names and functions of German officers who contacted Skoda about orders and other assignments. However, similar to the somewhat earlier excerpt on research work, the close collaboration with the SS in this area mentioned by Voss is almost not mentioned at all! There are only three lines addressing (in the context of research) the Brno SS Police Academy and an unspecified Waffen SS Artillery School. Incidentally, the latter may be a disguised research department of the technical office of the SS leadership main office, since, as we know, SS group leader Otto Schwab, according to his "business card", held the position of commander of the "Artillery School No. 1 of the Waffen- SS" perceived, this "artillery school" was in reality a secret nuclear research facility in Glau. Contacts to the SS research facility in Pilsen were established according to the same scheme.

Perhaps that is why it is in this direction. To a certain extent, this is confirmed by the fact that, alongside the two institutions mentioned, ranks and names of liaison officers appear on the list, but these are Wehrmacht ranks. This is of course not possible, which suggests that both the ranks and the names themselves are merely "operational personal information", ie do not correspond to the truth. Such a practice was the norm in the case of top secret SS projects, because they were not only kept secret from "internal enemies" but also from the prying eyes of Speer and his people! In the context of the Brno Academy, "Colonel Winter" and "Major Dr. Henzel" and next to the "Artillery School" a certain "Major Dr. Loetzbayer" on. One

Such a "gap" in the British report should not come as a surprise, after all it is about the most closely guarded secrets of both the Germans and (after the war) the Russians. Let's not be mistaken: SMERSH and other Russian services did not remain idle at this time, which will be discussed later. But don't worry, the interesting motive isn't over yet, we'll come back to the questions about the SS!

For now though, let's return to the British Intelligence Service's report.
45

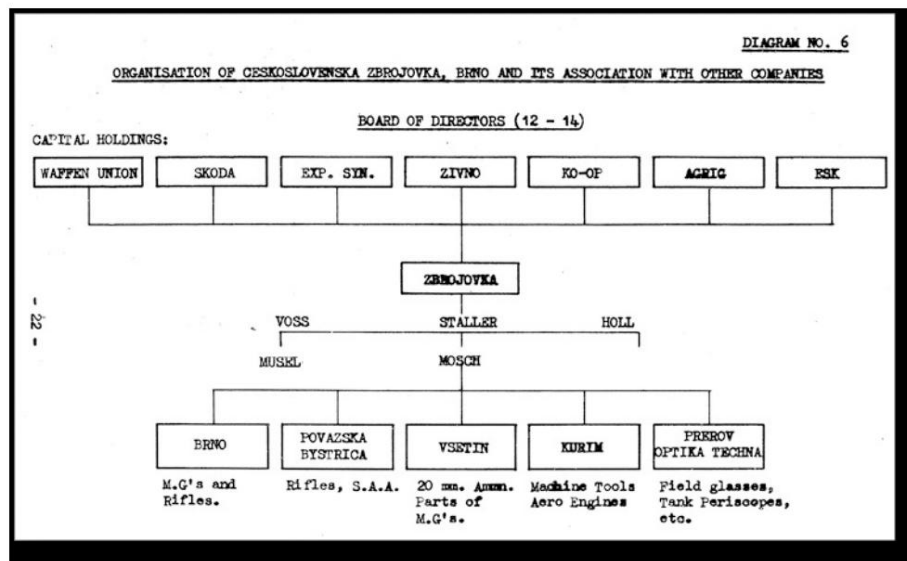
A fairly large appendix is devoted to the role of Brno (although the SS and Police Academy, which carried out important research projects, is not mentioned anywhere, information on it is given in Volume I). Also in this case I would like to present a short version: československa Zbrojovka

Brno The Prague headquarters was visited twice. The mission was warmly received. [...] However, the answers to the set of questions were nowhere near as accurate as in the case of Skoda.

Perhaps this was due to the fact that the questions were not fully understood. [...] Zbrojovka Brno has nothing in common with Zbrojovka Strakonice. The former is much larger, henceforth referred to as 'Zbrojovka' in this report.

Organization

The organizational scheme has been presented as a diagram, the following notes are intended to facilitate its understanding:



Organizational scheme of the Zbrojovka Brno company (during the war: Waffenwerke Brünn).
(NARA / BIOS)

1. Brno. The main factory is here, on the outskirts. Initially it was engaged in the production of Czech rifles and light machine guns of the 'Bren' type. German rifles and the MG-34 were also made. However, the types of weapons developed in Zbrojovka were produced elsewhere. Although the city itself was seriously destroyed in the last phase of the war, the armaments factories remained untouched; the production profile is currently being switched to peacetime.
2. Vsetin. These factories were set up before the war to manufacture large caliber 15mm machine guns and 15mm and 20mm ammunition. They are located near the forest in the midst of rugged hills. The facility was carefully camouflaged, and it was also designed so that air raids could not cause much damage. [...]
3. Povazska Bystrica. It is an ammunition factory for small arms, which was moved here from Bratislava before the war. It owns rolling mills for bronze and copper, as well as the appropriate equipment to produce shell casings from these metals.
4. Kurim (Gurein). This factory was initially located in Zbrojovka

designed tools for machines that were highly valued. It was taken over and expanded by the Germans, after which it was used to manufacture and test aircraft engines.

5. Prev. Optical factory, the construction of which began before the war under the name of Optika Techa [?]. Very high quality binoculars and armored periscopes were manufactured here. Production continues.

Pilsen was considered the "centre of the SS" in the Protectorate (because of the special research center that later came directly under Kammler), possibly also Prague as the official capital and seat of the Waffen-SS liaison staff, where all the threads were to come together. However, there are many indications that the SS was also particularly interested in Brno. I have a copy of an internal SS publication (intercepted and translated by American military intelligence) listing all of the institutions of that organization in existence since early 1945, from the main institutions of troop and Garrison locations and concentration camp branches down to the smallest cells in provincial towns, offices, etc. In Brno, there are relatively eight institutions are listed! Among them are two battalions, the seat of an unidentified commander or commander (there is only the abbreviation F-SS-F Oa "BM" - extension), a branch of the military district command Prague, but also the seat of the Waffen-SS military area for Bohemia and Moravia (SS section XXXIX), which was transferred here from Prague in 1944, and a concentration camp (unnamed). The relocation of the district staff, through which part of the correspondence with the SS central institutions in Berlin was formally handled (most of it was "taken care of" by the Waffen-SS liaison staff), must have had very important reasons. In other words, something very important was happening in Brno, which was certainly not limited to the activities of the SS and Police Academy. Perhaps the mentioned and today unknown concentration camp had something to do with the exploitation of prisoners?

Name	Position	Qualification	Present Location	Timeline of activity	Remarks
21. Isahang Iyadthorn	Manager				Deceased
22. Kallor Laypell	Manager				14.7.1961 OBE
23. W. Dug. Kienan Alfred	Manager	Techn.			1.7.1961 Salary Drop
24. John Angus Poiri.	Manager		Unknown		13.5.1961 Home
25. Dr. James Wylford	Manager		Retained France	Communicator cannot read English.	
26. John Walter	Manager	Techn. SS	Filed		SS-SS-Charles Palmer
27. Jacques Wichale	Manager	Techn. SS	Retained Germany		
28. Jacques Martin	Manager	Techn. SS-OB	Unknown	Spent West Germany	25.3.1961 transfer
29. Jacques Brian	Manager	Techn.	Unknown		
30. Oliver Philip	Manager	SS	Retained France Germany	Chief, Communicator, control center and coach of many people.	High grade quantity of skills.
Wilmann Laypell					Dead

Name	Position	Qualification	Present Location	Estimate of ability	Source
11. Dr. Edgar Josef	Manager	Techn.	Chief	★ 30-1000 Scientific	
12. Dr. Emil Josef	Construction	Techn. Eng.	Chief	★ 30-1000	
13. Dr. G. Schmidt Fritz	Manager	Techn.	Commissioner	★ 50-1000 Military, assistant Lieut. Col. of SS Army	
14. Albert Arthur	Manager	Commerce		★ 30-1000 leading em.	
15. Dr. Dietrich Lemuel	Manager	Techn. MEDIC	Detained France	Assistant of Chief of German occupation Commissioner	★ 20-1700 Prize
16. Dr. Dietrich Alfred	Techn. Dir.	Techn. MEDIC			★ 20-1700 Jordan
17. Dr. Julius Vachek	Manager	Techn.		Dead	
18. Dr. Emil Willy	Manager	Techn.	Detained Austria		★ 20-1700
19. Lutz Paul	Manager	Techn. SS			
20. Dr. Drig. Emil Dr. Drig.	Manager	Techn. SS			

Name	Position	Qualification	Present Location	Reliable of Ability	Source
31. Ing. H. From	Abwehrbeauftragter	SS	Unknown, very well reached by radio.	Demolition, assault, army leader, thought.	Dead
32. Stalling From	Abwehrbeauftragter	SS			
33. Isenberg	Abwehrbeauftragter	SS			
34. Ritter	Abwehrbeauftragter	SS			
35. Schille					Dead
36. Dr. Frey	Abwehrbeauftragter		Unknown		
37. Ing. Lohs	Abwehrbeauftragter				
38. Ing. Adolf From	Abwehrbeauftragter	SS			

(NARA / BIOS)

The report contains information that is based on a certain

disorganization of the armaments industry administration in the protectorate, which among other things was a possible consequence of the still undecided division of competences between the spear offices and the SS. An example of this was the use of Zbrojovka to manufacture rifles and MG-34 machine guns. After the September offensive, the Wehrmacht began sending out alarming reports. They said that the MG-34's structural elements burst en masse. Therefore, the production line in Brno was modernized at relatively high cost, after which the entire order for the production of new elements was canceled. In the years 1941/42, work was resumed and stopped three more times, as a result of which the production volume of small arms could not be increased significantly until 1943. Only then was the production management in the Speer Ministry reformed and special committees were created, ie

Special committees that deal extensively with all aspects and stages of specific production areas. They were composed of competent professionals, most of whom came from defense contractors.

With the works in Brno, e.g. For example, the following people contacted: Tix (Hanomag Hanover), Nieman (Mauser), Schebeck, Heinen and Jastrabek. On the other hand, the head of the special committee was a certain Budin, who was in charge of ammunition production in Zbrojovka (and maybe in other plants as well). Josef Holl, Voss' personal representative, also worked in Zbrojovka.

A certain curiosity contained in the British report is the rather mysterious question about the superb pre-war *Bren* light machine gun. The author of the report asked the Czechs why it had not been produced during the war. The answer was that a meeting was held in Berlin in 1940, during which such a solution was seriously considered. The objection of the Wehrmacht officers turned out to be the main problem! The SS generals, impressed by the effectiveness of the *Bren* used by the British during the western campaign, took a contrasting view. By the way, many of these weapons fell into the hands of the Germans after the evacuation of Dunkirk. This "dispute" was also joined by the Czech designers, who began to prove that the weapon had many shortcomings, which are initially being eliminated

would have to. From their point of view, the problem was that the production line was finished and could have reached the full production capacity of 40,000 pieces per year in a short time!

Eventually it was decided to switch them over to produce the faulty MG 34, exposing the above-mentioned disputes over competence within the German leadership. In 1941, Himmler's people tried again to start production of the *Bren* for the Waffen-SS, but again without success.

<u>List of Germans delegated for the Defense of Works</u>		
<u>(Abwehrbeauftragter)</u>		
CARSTANZEN Friedrich	Pilsen	
Ing. LARSEN Karl	Pilsen	
STROHMANN Karl	Smichov	
NOKE Adolf	Smichov	
LOFFLER Anton	Hradec Kralove	
RAUCH Rudolf	Adamov	
ORLAMUNDER Ewald	Adamov	
JANULE Paul	Dubnice n/V.	
PANCO August	Dubnice n/V.	
SEIFERT Frana	Dubnice n/V.	
Ing. SCHONK Herbert	Policna	
Dr. Ing. v. DOLESCHING Otto	Praha	
WEBER Erwin	Praha	
Ing. MIEDELA Josef	Praha	
HORATZEK Friedrich	Praha	
TURBA Georg	Praha	
Their present location is unknown.		
Praha, 29.II.1945		

A list of German counterintelligence officers who were responsible for protecting the most important armament installations in the Czech Republic. (NARA / BIOS)

A certain chaos on the German side is also evidenced by the fact that the well-proven design potential of the Holec brothers (there were three), who developed the *Bren* machine gun and the Besa rifle, was not used for several years of the war.

Another potential of defense industry in the protectorate were the CKD plants (žeskomoravska Kolben Danek). They employed 39,000 people (in factories that previously had room for 22,000 people!). The company was not connected to German corporations and received orders directly from the Reich Ministry for Armaments and War Production. The main products included tanks and medium ones

armored vehicles (9-15 t), of which an average of 120-150 were manufactured per month, and aircraft searchlights. It was mostly my own concepts. Unlike Zbrojovka and Skoda, the Germans did not interfere here.

An interesting excerpt from the British report is presented in the following appendix: 45 **Test facility in Pýíbram History:**

All sources agree that the institute in Pýíbram enabled outstanding Czech scientists and engineers to remain in the protectorate, thereby protecting them from being sent to work in other parts of the German Empire.

It seems that in 1943 the Czechs were ordered to send a certain number of tool and gauge designers to work in Plauen. Then came the demand to also send armaments designers and scientists. The establishment of a test facility in Pýíbram was intended to counteract this.

A second, less important motive was the desire to preserve the valuable technical library and equipment of the Mining School in Pýíbram. The school is a very old institution with a very good reputation. It was feared that both the library and the machines would be shipped to Germany.

During the interrogation, Dr. Voss credited himself with initiating these measures and it is quite likely that the Czechs managed to persuade him to sponsor this venture. There is also some evidence that the Germans, who controlled the armaments industry in the Protectorate, wished to have their own research and development center, to be compared with similar establishments of the Third Reich, e.g. B. could have competed with Rheinmetall-Borsig, Mauser and many others. Successfully realized research work or impressive concepts would have drawn the attention of Goering or possibly even Hitler to them.

Preparations for this began in earnest at the end of 1943

However, the staff was not able to start research work until the beginning of the summer of 1944. The large buildings of the mining institute are very old and do not seem suitable for the realization of modern research programs. However, their existence could be of great advantage because they enabled the early start of research activities. Added to this was the fact that Pýíbram was not close to any target worthy of an air raid. However, the city was easy to reach from Pilsen and Prague, which also spoke in favor of the location.

Work:

According to the Czechs, their policy was based on solving only those problems that would take many years to achieve satisfactory results - hoping that the war would be over before the Germans could use them [in practice]. All sources stressed that no particular results were achieved; the fact that the institution only operated for about 12 months gives special character to this statement.

One fact seems worth noting. When the buildings were inspected at the end of November, they were completely empty, with only an engineer and a secretary still on site. The answer to questions about the fate of the library, equipment and staff was that the Mining Institute was going to Moravská Ostrava was relocated, and the scientific staff returned to Charles University, the technical school and the companies from which these people originally came. [...]

Reprint of the internal German register of units, facilities and positions of the SS made by the American intelligence service, including a page on which Brno is named. The number of posts is amazing (although it has not been possible to "decipher" all the abbreviations): there were e.g. B. a "concentration camp" (KL - possibly a satellite camp?). The most important thing, however, is the transfer of the SS section staff, i.e. the Waffen SS military area, from Prague to Brno, because this confirms Brno's special role. In addition, there was an SS and Police Academy in the city, which carried out the research projects described in the first volume

realized. (NARA)

Management over the

works: The Germans were responsible for this, but it seems that there was a strong rivalry between them; some 'leaders' only stayed at the institute for a short time before they were dismissed.

Voss claims he gave the instructions, but others have cited Pohl and Mayer as their superiors. It is likely that all three attempted to take control of the institute.

Due to the fact that [the companies] Skoda, Zbrojovka and Semtin provided part of the staff and ensured the overall financing, they could have something to say about the work carried out. The costs were divided as follows:

Skoda - 55 percent,

Zbrojovka - 40 percent,

Explosia Synthesia - 5 percent.

Staff:

The staff numbered 350 people. This figure includes both workers and management. Skoda and Zbrojovka provided engineers and designers, while scientific staff came from various universities and technical schools. A filing cabinet containing all members of the staff was found on the premises of the facility. A cursory look at the cards [personnel cards] revealed a high percentage of German specialists and the fact that there were constant rapid changes - both promotions and dismissals. That seems to confirm the statements about disputes and rivalry.

Based on the material mentioned and other sources, basic information has been compiled on some senior figures: Wilson Kiess-Gutta. Born in Vienna in 1887. Was initially head of the institute, but was dismissed before the end of the war. Was a member of the SD [ie the SS!].

Rolf Engel. Born 1912. Dated 23 July 1944

Research Institute in Grossendorf [Władysławowo – a mysterious SS experimental facility to this day, which was controlled directly by Pýíbram and Obergruppenführer Mazuw!] took over the management of a department. He was a physicist with an engineering degree. Later he headed the whole institute. Believed to be a particularly gifted engineer and mathematician. He had the rank of SS Hauptsturmführer [Captain]. He fled to Germany, last heard from south of Munich [the “rat line” through the Alps?].

dr Ing. Miroslav Tayerli, a Czech from Zbrojovka. Was head of metrology department in Pýíbram. Also worked in Prague. [...]

In the further part of the report there is more interesting information about the above-mentioned institute, including primarily about the projects themselves that were implemented there. The presence of the aforementioned Engel already sheds some light on this, since it is known that before the transfer to the Protectorate he was the main SS expert on missiles. If he was head of the whole institute, that automatically means that this research profile took precedence - of course they had to have been SS projects. So what does the report itself say?

The whole institute occupied six buildings and a test site in Brahelcice - if the spelling is correct. The latter results from further personal data presented at the end of this chapter. It is stated that the facility wished to develop new armament patterns to be produced at the Waffen Union works. From the description, however, one can conclude that the technology was clearly advanced for the time and it seems doubtful whether the Germans would have chosen the Protectorate as the location for such production.

In the context of rocket research, e.g. B. the information that tests were carried out there with a missile guidance system at a distance of 10 km. It was developed "based on high-frequency physics". The research also included a missile guidance system that "utilized infrared rays." In addition, a stabilizer for tank armament was developed, which consisted of a telescopic sight and a gyro system. It also became one

Investigated solution that guided multiple machine guns on target based on a single aiming system.

The further information on this includes notes about people who were responsible for the individual research areas. I would like to cite only the most important examples: Jastrabek: Automatic Weapons Department.

dr Walter Schmidt: Head of the Chemical Institute of the Waffen Union [chemical weapons?].

- Larsson: Rocket research - a Swedish citizen!
- dr Ing. Karel Votruba: Head of the High Frequency Research Group.
- dr Inval Simon: Head of the Low Frequency Research Group, seconded from Charles University in Prague.
- dr Ing. Zdenek Truha: Head of the group for long-distance guidance systems and measurements.

- dr Jaroslav Broz: Head of the Magnetic Measurements Group.
- dr Jahoda: responsible for local laboratories in Brahelcice.
- The engineer Jan Stelsovsky: head of the rocket construction department.

So the described institute fully deserves to be included in the list of some of the most interesting institutions in the territory of the "SS model state". Incidentally, at the end of the above list, there is a note that all these devices correspond to the characteristics of the same trend, which includes the main, mainly strategic, types of weapons - see the question of "long-range guidance systems" above (these are research areas that are covered in other Parts of the German Empire were poorly represented, apart from Lower Silesia). The institute in Pýíbram does not deviate too much from the scheme mentioned.

The intelligence one

Race for the spoils of war

The special features of the research institutions that are created in the Third Reich occupied Czech Republic and not least in the last

The sentences of the previous chapter that were mentioned were also reason enough for foreign secret services to take an interest in this area. This interest had a very special priority. After all, these were areas that did not exist at all in the Allied states - trump cards that could have decided the superiority in a post-war confrontation! In both the Soviet Union and the United States, there was not even a term for "strategic weapons," which would be remote-controlled, powered by something out of today's sci-fi novel, and carry a much more dangerous arsenal of mass destruction than nuclear weapons could. The same was true of "stealth" technology. This high stakes led to an unprecedented intelligence competition unleashed in the same area in 1945 by the recent allies from the anti-Nazi coalition. Of course, one cannot automatically assume that all sides had a complete picture of what was going on locally and were aware of the value of the "scientific treasures" there. However, let's not anticipate events.



Prague – a scene from the uprising. (author's collection)

One could of course venture the thesis that the mere realization of extraordinary research projects did not decide whether the people involved and the corresponding material were left in place by the Germans in the spring of 1945. in one

In such a case, however, the secret services of the victorious powers would not have fought at all costs to achieve the stated "intelligence objectives" - as it turned out, their interest grew as more and more information came to light.

Another fact indirectly testifies to the fact that the Germans were not preparing to evacuate these places. In December 1944, Kammler approved a completely opposite plan: SS central offices were to be relocated to the Sudeten region! 49 It would be difficult to associate concentration of the most important armaments projects (underground factories and command and control facilities) in the protectorate and in the border area of Lower Silesia. This confirms the thesis that the Germans were attempting to build a "Sudetic fortress" from which the decisive blow with a weapon of mass destruction could possibly emanate (see, inter alia, the chapters on chemical weapons and work in the field of nuclear research). However, we will return to this topic in the last chapter. In any case, in the spring of 1945 everything indicated that the region mentioned harbored the key to extraordinarily valuable secrets of the Third Reich.

My interest in this topic was primarily aroused by the rather strange circumstances under which the American army appeared in the Czech Republic. By that I mean above all the strange haste when the Third Reich was actually already defeated and the main areas of resistance were somewhere else; on the other hand, the Americans thereby broke the inter-allied agreement with the Soviet Union.

The ambitious push inland led first to protests, then to outright anger from the Kremlin and provoked a sharp conflict between Moscow and Washington. What is most suspicious about it all is the fact that the advance mentioned was made without any understandable military reason.

It should be borne in mind that General Patton's Third Army, of which we are speaking here, had previously been significantly augmented by General Clarence Huebner's V Corps. As a result, it numbered over half a million soldiers and officers when it reached (on May 2nd) the pre-war Czechoslovak border! At this point, the American army leadership was still hesitating, as if waiting for approval from the highest authorities.

Patton stopped at the former border. It was not until the next day that Eisenhower gave General Bradley his consent to begin the offensive. Incidentally, Patton was characterized by the latter as "an exemplary commander, with the motivation and imagination to accomplish dangerous things quickly". He was also known for disliking Russians. Incidentally, Patton already had a certain amount of experience in bringing under control facilities that housed interesting secrets of the Third Reich. Before that he took, among other things, a "special region", not to say: "unfinished fortress" in the area of Jonastal in Thuringia, which housed the kilometer-long underground labyrinth of the facilities *Olga (S-4)*, *Office 10* and *Jasmin*, as well as those in the Chemical weapons storage facilities scattered around the area and the nuclear research laboratories in Stadtilm. One of the staff officers of the Third Army, who visited this area after its final conquest, left us unforgettable first-hand impressions. This is Colonel Robert S. Allen: 50

"The underground facilities were amazing. They were literally underground cities. Four of these were in and around Ohrdruf: one near a horrific camp, one under the castle and two west of the town. None of these were mines or natural caves, all were man-made. The horrible camp [originally: "horror camp" - it's about a subcamp near Ohrdruf] provided workers. It was interesting that there was no material to be conveyed. It was carefully scattered on hills many kilometers away. [...]

The complexes, more than 15 m underground, consisted of two or three levels, which radiated out for many kilometers like the spokes of a wheel [a similar "concentric" scheme to that of the *giant!*] The entire central complex was made of solid reinforced concrete. The aim of the project was to accommodate the top army command here after the bombing of Berlin. These places had offices with floor coverings and carpets, numerous work and storage rooms, fully equipped bathrooms, kitchens with electrical equipment, decorated dining and meeting rooms,

huge refrigerators, converted bedrooms, recreation rooms, separate bars for officers and other personnel, a movie theatre, air conditioning and sewerage."

The above description obviously concerns only one element of the whole project, namely the command center or one of several command centers. It is important in that the underground complex is currently inaccessible.

On May 2, much of the protectorate was still under German control. The Red Army was held up east of Prague by strong Waffen SS formations. The 500,000-strong tank machinery set off from eastern Austria and set course for Pilsen, which had been destroyed in a recent air raid and was the last functioning armaments center of the Third Reich just a few weeks ago. However, it went a maximum of 60 km into Czech territory. Literally within days, Patton had gained access to Skoda's industrial complex in Pilsen. The northern flank included Cheb (Eger) and Nejdek (Neudek), then it moved near Jáchymov (St.

Joachimsthal) before. Pýšibram with its SS-controlled research institute, Rožmitál, Prague and Brno were far beyond the reach of the Third Army - the last two places were quasi-local "headquarters" where the SS conducted research: the Waffen-SS liaison staff in the capital and the already mentioned seat of Section XXXIX.

It is therefore evident that Patton failed to achieve many important goals. True, there are signals that detached reconnaissance sub-units penetrated even into the Lower Silesian border region (Jerzy Rostkowski, a well-known researcher from the city of Książ / Fürstenstein, claims to have a photo showing American soldiers in the Osówka facility in the *giant* ; There was also looting, which was connected with the advance to Żwieradów-Zdrój / Bad Flinsberg and later served as a template for the film "Stoßtrupp Gold"). If we ask ourselves the question of the extent of the advance of the Third Army and the possible use of the scientific secrets of the Third Reich, we must also realize that in May 1945 the Americans largely underestimated the potential of German technology, which only became apparent in the

noticeably changed in later years. They simply did not have the necessary orientation. It was often in areas they just didn't understand. Brauns' first interrogation and his memoirs, described in Volume II, are a striking example of the fact that even the most outstanding commanders and scientists possessed a cognitive horizon that simply did not encompass many such advanced questions. They did not understand the breakthroughs being made by the Germans. They were unfamiliar with various promising areas, e.g. B. in the field of work on a ramjet engine (which at that time represented the shortest way to build supersonic aircraft), on the second generation of jet fighters, or in the interesting directions of nuclear research - which did not interest them at all, because they meant the experimental stage to have already done. Proof of this is not least the fact that many very interesting nuclear physicists (Heisenberg's assistant Guido Beck, Würschmidt, Gans, Jaffke and about ten other people) and aircraft designers (Tank, Horten, Klage, Henrici) went to Argentina and the Americans did nothing to stop them - only Heisenberg was stopped, and von Braun suggested better terms.



Prague, May 1945 - Russian troops were warmly welcomed; the Allies (who ceded Czechoslovakia to Hitler) became less trusted. (Archive)

The fate of Operation *Paperclip* also testifies to the fact that the Americans lacked a clue . Under strong resistance from domestic “anti-Nazi” circles, a little more than a hundred outstanding German and Austrian scientists and designers were brought to the United States, but only after

Several months since they resumed work, Americans were showing signs of enlightenment and decided that hiring another 200-300 would be a good thing.

I am not writing this to preclude the possibility that Patton was unable to secure plunder worthy of the whole campaign (the previously cited British report directly referred to the kidnapping of several dozen people and documents of some sort). I merely wish to suggest that the end result could only be incomplete under the circumstances. Maybe the Americans managed to find few things of value, maybe they didn't. In many cases the material was hidden and Patton's people had only a few days to spy on the whole area.

The available documents show that the whole "event" had many surrealistic aspects, at least according to the soldiers' assessment. The later American military historian Charles B. MacDonald was a witness to these events: 40



Fighting with the Patton units was sporadic, but casualties occurred on both sides. In the photo there is a memento of such a battle in the form of two destroyed vehicles, the German Marder gun and the Sherman tank standing further away with its frontal armor pierced. (Archive)



A hit and abandoned German self-propelled gun on the hull of the *Pz. Kpfw. IV* (archive)

“The fights were unusual. The people who surrender

wanted, played a comic opera. Apparently they had to fire a shot or two in the process. The country was strange too, neither German nor Czech.

Small towns on the frontier, with houses connected by fences and adorned with arches over the entrance gates, looked like Slavic villages, but the population was unquestionably hostile. It was the Sudetenland - subject of disputes [before the war], inhabited mainly by Germans.

American armored forces were on the road leading to the target city of Pilsen. They passed in silence the unprotected forts of [former] Czechoslovakia, its undefended western line of fortifications (the 'little Maginot Line'), and suddenly had behind them the Sudetenland with its apathetic, sometimes somber, pro-German sympathizers. They entered a country celebrating with colorful flags and were greeted warmly.

They came suddenly into a country reeling with happiness, as if they had crossed some invisible barrier. It was like Paris, on a smaller scale and with different flags, but with the same celebrating faces, the same liberation madness.

The tanks scurried past the anti-aircraft guns protecting Skoda's vast industrial complex on the outskirts and entered the city at record speed.

'Nazdar! Nazdar!' – 'Hello, greetings' – the people shouted."



“Branded” Germans awaiting resettlement right after the Soviet Army occupied Prague. (CTK)

However, reaching the industrial complex itself was not as smooth as the above account might suggest; it was not until May 6th that it was taken by separate troops from the 3rd Panzer Division, which the army command had given the name *Combat Command B*. It was the same unit that three weeks earlier had skilfully cleared out the monstrous underground *Mittelwerk* near Nordhausen (later the Soviet Army shot an otherwise very good documentary there, which was intended to prove that Patton had violated the alliance treaties - the devastated equipment and shown large empty halls. At that time over 200 V2 rockets were removed, which were later tested at White Sands). However, the disengaged troops soon left their positions and entered east of the town, where Soviet troops were expected, but they were not.

Soldiers from another unit had set up camp in the works. Patton, meanwhile, not even trying to hide his hatred of the Russians, wanted to take advantage of their inability to approach Prague and devised a plan to occupy Prague, since the German troops were in complete chaos (and no strike from the west expected direction). A reconnaissance squad was dispatched, although in

there were still Germans in the capital, which the Czechs took a little too far and decided to revolt. However, this started a fight on much higher levels. Although Patton was supported by General Eisenhower, the Russians soon spoke up. Eisenhower first sent a message to Moscow that, given that the front had halted on their side (about 70 km east of Prague), the area would be occupied by the Third Army. The whole thing gave the impression that there were no agreements by virtue of which Czechoslovakia, Saxony, Thuringia, etc., were to be occupied by the Russians. Without waiting for a reaction, Patton managed to dispatch armored sentries east of the line reached. The officers of one of these posts made contact with the Czech resistance movement in Prague. It was determined that the city should be handed over to the Americans. So Patton was convinced that he had succeeded - but only for a moment.



General Patton. (author's collection)

Soon after, Eisenhower withdrew his consent, prompted by Stalin's objections. General Antonov, the Red Army's chief of staff, submitted a sharp protest note in connection with the preceding American message. General John Dean, the US Army's military attaché in Moscow, also added his comments. In effect, Eisenhower gave orders to halt the offensive (rather, the march) and abandoned the detached reconnaissance armored forces

to withdraw the previous line Karlovy Vary (Carlsbad) - Pilsen - Budějovice (Budweis). However, the situation was complicated by the fact that Patton, in all seriousness, intended to cut ties with headquarters for 24 hours in order to pretend that he had not received the order!

The next day (May 5, two days after crossing the former Czech border), the uprising broke out in Prague. On the Russian side, this certainly led to the belief that they were dealing with some kind of organized conspiracy. The uprising began, of course, for purely political reasons. In their deliberations, the insurgents virtually ignored the fact that very strong SS forces were still concentrated in the capital.



Patton's army in the Czech Republic. (NARA)

As a result, despite the element of surprise, they began to suffer heavy casualties that same day. It was not possible that the Czechs e.g. B. would hold out for another two months, as was the case with the Warsaw Uprising. There were many indications that they would not last more than a few days (perhaps the Soviet Army knew about these plans and deliberately held back the attack?). The surreality of the situation at that time was that, despite the defeat of the Third Reich on the fronts, the Wehrmacht and SS formations in the central and northern parts of the Czech Republic (and in the adjacent mountainous part of Lower Silesia) could still operate completely freely. As early as May 6th, one day after the outbreak of the uprising, the *New York Times* reported

the following alarming message:

"The Czech radio has been broadcasting dramatic calls for help since the early morning. They indicate that the Germans are preparing to retake the city from the hands of the Czech resistance movement. The announcer read out the following urgent message in English: 'To all allied armies! We urgently need help. Send your tanks and planes. The Germans are advancing on Prague. For God's sake, send help!'"

By this time, the Russians had settled the situation enough for Eisenhower and Western political leaders to be sufficiently aware of the agreements reached with the Soviet government. Patton therefore remained inactive and the Third Army was soon to leave Czech territory.

So it seems that she didn't have a lot of time to research the bombed complex in Pilsen or other interesting targets. Whether the Americans could come into possession of the greatest scientific secrets of the SS seemed a mystery that would not be easy to solve. In difference z. For example, on the battles around Berlin, the attacking troops did not have a single war correspondent with them this time, and reports from other sources are not particularly numerous either.

The next step, therefore, was to search for intelligence material in American government archives (for which I enlisted the help of American researcher Joseph Farrell, among others).

After a while, it turned out that there are many groups of files related in one way or another to the activities of the American armed forces in the Czech Republic. However, none of them contained a report that directly described the search for material on research during the Third Army offensive. It was generally correspondence between various military commanders and the State Department, which was attempting to mitigate the conflict between Washington and Moscow. However, I did come into possession of material about another more interesting episode involving the Americans.

The matter began or lived to mid-February 1946

Time again because both the Czech government and the American Congress insisted on clarifying the course of the operation, since suspicion had arisen that measures were being taken to the detriment of the ally.

The first action taken by the military leadership in response to the above demands was disclosure of the material to interested parties. This resulted in the document of February 14, 51. There was also, as it turned out, another one in 1946.

undertone for the interest of the Americans. They wanted, this time in cooperation with the Czech government, to get hold of some material they had not known about in May 1945!

On February 19, Colonel Alfred Starbird, the head of the European section in the Operations Division of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, drafted an information letter stating the following:

"1. Due to the exchange of several telegrams between the State Department and the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with the participation of the intelligence section of the General Staff and the American military attaché in Prague, a conference was held today in the State Department, which was attended by representatives of the G-2 [military intelligence service], the OPD [of the Operations Department of the General Staff] and the State Department participated.

Their aim was to take action in relation to an incident involving American soldiers who allegedly violated Czech sovereignty by staging an 'attack' inland to obtain possession of 12,000 pounds [approximately 5.5 t] top secret German documents.

2. The 'attack', of which the G-2 was not informed in Washington before its completion, succeeded in the sense that the documents could be brought to Germany, although three American soldiers were caught by the Czechs and are currently being detained by Czech authorities.

3. The exact contents of the removed boxes are unknown, but it is assumed that they were personal official documents of Hitler

and Himmler included. However, the Czechs claim that they are linked to particularly sophisticated radar equipment and data. They demand the immediate return of this material to Czechoslovakia; in exchange, they would release the three American military personnel they are holding.

4. The State Department is of the opinion that the Czechoslovak government could well regard the raid as an act of war. In order to appease the Czechs, the State Department ordered its ambassador to inform them that an investigation into the matter had been started.

5. As a result of the conference, the G-2 will host a teleconference on February 20, 1946 with General Sibert of the G-2, USFET. A copy of the material proposed [for the conference] is attached.” So the military leadership admitted that tons of top-secret

documents had been taken away! Strange in all of this is the arrest of several soldiers by the Czechs. How could this happen?

At the beginning of May 1945 there were no Czechoslovak authorities. Or was the operation perhaps performed later?

First, let's focus on the attachment mentioned in the letter above. It is important in that it was basically prepared by the intelligence service for internal use, to set up points of view between military intelligence officers from Washington and the head of intelligence at USFET (US Forces, European Theater). Furthermore, as already stated in the introduction, the information contained in this document is intended only for the two interlocutors. Because of this, it could be expected that interesting information would come to light.

And indeed, the document shows us an interesting fact: it is possible that Patton's army did not find what it was looking for at all (if they were looking for it at all), since important material was indeed only later secured! Not only later, but also somewhere else!

In the whole matter (which means all of the mentioned

I mean documents) is significant by the fact that the Czechs made a big racket that almost bordered on a declaration of war, but they never once demanded the return of the documents found in Pilsen! This topic did not exist for her at all. It is important to know that Czech personnel were on the factory premises until the end of the war. So it's entirely possible that the Americans didn't even know about the super-secret SS project in terms of advanced propulsion. Here are the most important excerpts from the document mentioned: 51

“[...] The air attaché was requested by G-2, USFET [Reconnaissance Branch at US Forces Staff at US Forces European Theater] about two months ago [ie December 1945] to survey the river bank about 30 miles south of Prague from the air to photograph.” I would like to briefly interrupt the analysis of the document here. If we put on the map all the important facilities that were in the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, then the whole thing immediately becomes perfectly clear: 30 miles corresponds to about 48 km - exactly at this distance south of the capital there is only one destination - Pýíbram (Pilsen, for example, is about 80 km away). At a distance of about a dozen kilometers, the Vltava River, the only river in this region, flows from north to south. We already know what was being worked on in Pýíbram. Let's return to the content of the document of February 20, 1946:

“About ten days ago, the military attaché in Czechoslovakia was asked by the G-2, USFET, to obtain permission for 14 American officers and soldiers to enter Czechoslovakia. The purpose of the mission was not mentioned, but it was clear that the entry was linked to the recordings. USFET has been advised that the group must report to the Prague office of the attaché. However, they did not do this, but went directly to the site on the river bank and carried out the evacuation [of the cargo] after neutralizing certain explosive devices. The Office of the Military Attaché was asked to conduct investigative measures and prepare statements for the Czech officials, who

learned that a salvage operation had been carried out and a large amount of material had been removed. The Czechs suspect that the material concerns the latest radar technology and are upset about the violation of Czechoslovakia's sovereignty and in particular about the methods used.

The attaché's office knew the group wanted to reach Czechoslovakia to secure documents. However, the attaché found himself in an embarrassing position due to the fact that the access was secret and the boxes were brought to Germany.

This incident has been linked to an earlier attack by American soldiers, who entered a particular house, took away the furniture and the ATVs, and took away the women. The Czechs were given copies of orders from the G-1, USFET directing the group to name the operation [the aim of the operation?] and to inform the highest authorities. Czech officials claim that the prisoners confessed everything and the captain admitted to being an explosives expert. The Ambassador later stated that the War Ministry should be informed that the attack had been accepted at the highest level, and that Czech officials have a vague idea of the disciplinary measures taken at lower levels. The ambassador was asked for instructions.

For the time being, the Ambassador has been informed that the State Department has requested the War Department to conduct an investigation. The State Department is pressuring for information based on which to prepare the response for the Ambassador to close the matter as follows:

- the matter will not be made public,
- the documents will remain in American possession,
- the staff will be dismissed,
- friendly relations with Czechoslovakia will be established restored,

- no complications with the ally in the east.

Yesterday, February 19, at the conference with the State Department, it was suggested that the United States should apologize for the way this operation was conducted. This should be done in a way that does not jeopardize the position of the USFET commander. Depending on the content of the documents, a friendly approach to the Czech intelligence service is conceivable, by inviting its members to view the documents. This could also be used as a bargaining chip to free the three people. I would ask you to discuss this with General McNarney and Ambassador Murphy to determine if you agree with the actions outlined in the last two paragraphs. You should convey your decision to the G-2 through command channels as soon as possible, as the State Department is urging a speedy response.

You should be prepared to return the documents if ordered by the highest American authorities. Your S-1675 noted that an American war correspondent was in the group. I hope you have taken all possible precautions to prevent the matter from becoming public. The War Department and State Department would be grateful for any information as to the contents of the documents. Could you provide any information on this now?

The assumption is that you will be copying the documents to microfilm as fast as the equipment will allow.

The G-2 proposes that General Egmont Koenig be detained during his return to Czechoslovakia so that he can be given all the information about the affair. Koenig should be informed that the War Department will likely fire Taylor as he has many [sore points?]. The dismissal should be without [personal?] prejudice against the officer concerned. It should be used to restore peaceful relations with the Czech Republic."

One of the goals mentioned above, which the American authorities wanted to achieve despite the scandal, sounds pretty interesting: the point is that the documents should remain in American possession. At first glance, this is not surprising, but if it had only been a question of using knowledge about research projects from the war, it would have been sufficient to copy the documents. There was clearly more at stake here, namely that this knowledge did not reach the Russians!

TOP SECRET

WAR DEPARTMENT
WAR DEPARTMENT GENERAL STAFF
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

19 February 1946

MEMORANDUM FOR LIEUTENANT GENERAL HULL:
(Through: Theater Group, GFD)

SUBJECT: Seizure of Documents by American Soldiers in Czechoslovakia.

1. As a result of a series of cables between State Department officials in Czechoslovakia and the State Department as well as between USSET G-2, Military Attache, Czechoslovakia and War Department, G-2, a conference was held at the State Department this date at which representatives of G-2, GFD, and the State Department were present. Purpose of the conference was to determine the course of action in the affair, involving American soldiers allegedly violating Czechoslovak sovereignty by a "raid" into Czechoslovak territory to procure 12,000 pounds of highly classified German documents.
2. The "raid", of which G-2 in Washington knew nothing prior to its completion, was successful in that the documents were removed into Germany although 3 American soldiers engaged in the enterprise were apprehended by the Czechs and are now being held by Czech authorities.
3. The exact contents of the cases removed are unknown, but it is believed that they consist of personal official files of Hitler and Himmler. The Czechs, however, seem to hold the opinion that the material was related to the most highly developed radar equipment and data. The Czechs have demanded that the material be turned back to Czechoslovakia immediately in return for the release of the 3 American military personnel now being held by them.
4. The State Department feels that the Czechoslovak government could very well claim the raid to be in the nature of an act of war. To placate the Czechs, State Department has instructed their ambassador to say that an investigation of the matter is being made.
5. As a result of the conference, G-2 is holding a teleconference with General Stewart, G-2, USSET, on 20 February 1946. A copy of the proposed War Department transmission is attached.

Incl
Copy of proposed telecon
with STG, G-2

ALFRED D. STANBRO
Colonel, GSC
Chief, European Section
Theater Group, GFD

DECLASSIFIED
Authority: 11.7744

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

WAR DEPARTMENT
WAR DEPARTMENT GENERAL STAFF
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

21 February 1946

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL HULL (Through Theater Group)

SUBJECT: Seizure of Documents in Czechoslovakia

1. G-2 held a tele-conference at approximately 1700 hours, local time, 20 February, with STG. General Hull was present as an STD conference. STD advised that it favored a press release on the entire project giving correct details of the story. Reference was made to CDRM LAM, 21 February, Top Secret (S-195), 20 February 1946 which gave an expression of Ambassador Murphy's views. Ambassador Murphy favors immediately authorizing the inspection of the cases of documents by Czech Military Mission members to obtain the support of the Czechs. In the cable, General Hull expressed a belief that no apologetic would be required if the Government of Czechoslovakia is fully informed of the circumstances, and further, if an agreement can be reached on the sharing or return of the documents. General Marney agrees with this principle.
2. STD was informed that no press release was authorized and the plan proposed by Ambassador Murphy was not to be carried out until concurrence from Washington was obtained. All this information has been relayed to the State Department and, G-2 states that the matter is being referred to Mr. Byrnes. G-2 also indicated that General Eisenhower is to be briefed on the subject at, or before, 1500, 21 February.
3. The press aspect is complicated by the fact that the French have apparently relayed the information to the press (information as to cable was originally obtained through French sources) and the French are alleged to have informed the Czechs of the cable one week prior to the time of the raid. Further, a Swedish correspondent has relayed to Stockholm a carried version of the raid according to information from G-2.
4. Mr. Williamson, State Department, has been informed that the War Department is awaiting guidance from the Department of State before proceeding further.

ALFRED D. STANBRO
Colonel, GSC
Chief, European Section
Theater Group, GFD

TOP SECRET

Selected documents about the advance of an American special force to Štýchovice and the removal of German documents - see text for description.
(NARA)

Another top-secret document, also dated February 20, includes a header that doesn't beat around the bush. It reads: "Intelligence service advance into Czechoslovakia". 52 General Starbird prepared a statement stating inter alia the following:

"1. During a teleconference held this morning on the subject of US military personnel's advance into Czechoslovakia, it was determined that the documents removed included: • German correspondence about Bohemia and Moravia, as well as documents belonging to Himmler, von Ribbentrop, Frank and Funk included:

- Documents from the Gestapo and the German intelligence service over Bohemia and Moravia; • documents of President Beneš from the years 1918-38; • Locations of treasures in caves in the area Czechoslovakia were discovered.

2. The G-2 at the War Department has been informed that the *Herald Tribune* in Paris has the full story of the whole affair, except for the contents of the documents. The theater [USFET] noted this morning that the press appears uncontrollable on the matter because of Czechoslovakia, which has closed its borders to all Americans.

3. The State Department sent a telegram to its embassy in Prague authorizing the ambassador to apologize to the Czech government."

With that, everything would actually be clear if it weren't for the strange content of the documents. Would the Americans really have risked such great political complications if the material had not been of tangible value to them? The explanation does not seem particularly convincing. At that time, who was interested in German intelligence documents from the war?

Another top secret letter from Colonel Starbird contains certain interesting details: 53

"[...] Ambassador Murphy is in favor of having the crates inspected immediately by a Czech military mission to gain Czech support. In a telegram, General Bull expressed the view that an apology will not be necessary if the Czech government is fully informed of the circumstances and an agreement is then reached on shared access to the documents or their return. General McNarney agrees. [...]"

The press aspect was complicated by the fact that the French apparently leaked information to the press (information about the hideout came from French sources) and allegedly also informed the Czechs about the hideout a week before the attack. What's more, a Swedish correspondent sent Stockholm a twisted version of the story about the attack, based on information from the G-2."

Before moving on to other documents, let's try to confront this incident with a version compiled by Czech researcher Miloš Jesenský based on various sources (in his book, which he co-authored with Robert Lejtníkiewicz). He states that the document depot is in Štýchovice, about 30 km south of Prague

was hidden. He also explains the French motif:

56

"On October 13, the French Embassy in Prague sent a letter to the Czechoslovak Foreign Ministry, in which they announced via Gen. Koenig that SS officer Günther Achenbach had exposed himself in a French POW camp for SS men. Achenbach said he knew of a place not far from Prague where an archive of documents about important war events was hidden. The French embassy wanted to verify Achenbach's sincerity and deliver him to Czechoslovakia to face reality. However, after three months there was still no response from the Foreign Ministry, so General Flipo, the French military attaché, sent one

Transcription of Achenbach's report there and the plans he sent. They were taken over by the Czech General Staff. We read in the testimonies of the captured SS man that on April 20 the special command 'Lange' was created at the SS proving ground in Hradíšýko, which dug a 12 m long tunnel near the proving ground 'Zavist'.

He [Achenbach] wrote:

'After digging up the tunnel, about 30 sacks were placed in it. They came from Berlin and were very heavy. A sack opened and contained only papers'. [...] 'The action was carried out on the orders of Minister of State Karl Hermann Frank, who alone possessed the plan for the compilation and destruction [of this archive]. The commander of training group No. 1 received the command for the allocation of manpower. The command consisted of 32 earthworkers and 3 shift supervisors (only lieutenants). We suspected that there were documents of special importance in the sacks, which is why the operation was top secret and carried out by officers.'

If the German POW's account is to be taken literally, then the depot probably had nothing to do with armaments programs or even anything to do with the Protectorate. There is talk of a delivery from Berlin.

This is the second version that could be considered relatively believable. The first came from the Czechs, with whom the American Embassy was in contact, and concerned radar technology.

The book cited also mentions that the tunnel entrance was masked with a layer of clay, but Achenbach, who was present in the group, managed to find the place again. The entrance behind was mined with almost a ton of TNT! It took no less than 38 hours to get inside, and it was all done during a snowstorm.

On February 22, the US War Department issued instructions apologizing to the Czech government and returning the material. A statement was also prepared, in which the version was maintained that the documents were mainly "Hitler's

Pre-War Plans and Warfare Plans". 54 As I have already mentioned, it would be difficult to consider such an explanation credible. The Czechs were of the same opinion, as said on 8 March MP Vaclav David in his speech during a Parliament session:⁵⁶

"If we are talking about the contents of the sacks that the American army command brought to Prague Castle, then it is valuable material, but we have evidence that it is not the same material that the Americans transported from Štýchovice." Wenn If so, then the

statement likely referred to the same radar technologies that the Czechs mentioned in official discussions with embassy officials. Of course, other versions of the story also surfaced, mostly described in the popular press. However, it appears they are mostly based on fragmentary leaked information and guesswork. In any case, nothing concrete indicates that the Americans had then penetrated the really interesting "Czech" projects of the Third Reich, with the top-secret SS facility in Pilsen, with the "former Aussig mine" near Jáchymov or the achievements of Professor Hüttig and his colleagues from Prague.

On this occasion, the question of the nature of Patton's offensive in early May 1945 comes up again. After all, in this case, the city mentioned was considered the main target from the outset. In this matter, however, I managed to find an interesting source, namely a report by the director Wilhelm Voss. It's all the more interesting because its story sounds honest and on-topic. He knew that before the war Skoda had strong ties to American capital and later made no secret of the fact that he hoped to be able to help the Americans find secret documents! He probably wanted to secure the continuation of his professional career and a luxurious life in the United States.

Also important in this context are the results of the search by Tom Agoston himself, which were largely initiated by interviews he did shortly after the war with Dr. Voss had led. So let's start with

[illegible]

“The news that Skoda came under the provisional control of the US Army on May 6th electrified both the Western defense industry and the military. Without wasting any time, the United States and Britain assigned specialized intelligence teams to reach Pilsen to unravel the technical mysteries of

to inspect Skoda before the area was occupied by the Red Army. The project was kept secret and the arrival of the mission was not announced in any way. The unexpected behind-the-scenes opportunity was a unique opportunity to see how the eight-year collaboration between Skoda and German steel and armaments giant Krupp had enriched the production processes of the Pilsen complex, which in 1938 became part of the German Reich found.

Given the inevitable absorption of Skoda by the Soviet defense industry, the intelligence that the two Allied teams were to capture was deemed of particular importance. The production technologies for steel and tubes further developed by Skoda as well as the tube foundry [for artillery tubes] were just as legendary as the research and development activities of the company. The American and British spy teams should also look at tank production, their machining shops, foundry, rolling mill and machine park. Besides the inevitable consideration of Skoda's potential as a future [element] of the Soviet defense industry, the prospect of the company becoming a partner of the USSR in international heavy industry projects was another obvious reason for British and US interest. We must remember that Skoda's merits are connected, among other things, with participation in the construction of infrastructure for hydroelectric power stations in Niagara Falls, the Suez Canal and the implementation of a number of key projects for Iran, China and other countries.

The Allied spy troops were unaware of the activities of a top secret SS spy team operating 'under the guise' of Skoda's research projects. The Russians, however, had some inkling of this. However, their conspiratorial informants, who determined the [intelligence] infiltration points, were unable to infiltrate the triple military, industrial and political counter-espionage ring, the Himmler Pilsen

to protect the plans, data and people who carried out the work.

The Soviet informants were part of a technical espionage organization set up by Moscow in 1944 to collect and analyze all technical information related to the German equipment it had taken over. These teams of experts accompanied the Red Army wherever it fought [Agoston probably meant the object and scientific reconnaissance sections of the intelligence service "SMERSH" code-named "MIF"]. So deep was their staff work that some of the teams assigned to the occupied factories had complete lists of the products in which they were interested and even the names of key members of the technical staff. This information proved invaluable in post-war operations involving the dismantling of [entire factories]. The Skoda 'gold mine' that they had taken over was a real rarity. The Soviet engineering teams sent to Pilsen were always accompanied by technicians. [...]

By the time the American espionage team was able to begin work at the Skoda works, a foretaste of the Cold War was already in the air, and the metallic sound of the 'iron curtain' being drawn was already very audible.

In Berlin, the Russians used excuse after excuse to deny access to a segregated American unit in the American sector of the four-part city.

The unit remained isolated for almost two months [Agoston was a war correspondent, including in Berlin]. The mood in Pilsen was completely steeped in the changing political climate, leading to great frustration among the Allied missions. As it turned out, they naively believed that the wartime cooperation and mutual support of both states extended to the Czechoslovakian government-in-exile, whose liaison staffs on both sides of the Atlantic would respond with reciprocity – especially now, after the

Defeating the main opponent.

The mood in Pilsen not only reflected the spirit of the Czech-Russian alliance of 1943-44, which pushed the country vigorously into the Soviet sphere of influence long before the final victory of the war, but also fully confirmed the American intelligence analysis (OSS) that circulated in SHAEF quarters and in the circles of the Czech government-in-exile in London in January 1945. According to this analysis, the OSS came to the conclusion that there is 'almost unanimous agreement in Czech (US) émigré circles that cooperation with the USSR is necessary and desirable'.

It has even been said that Czech communist circles and left-wing Social Democrats 'want to see Czechoslovakia more or less fully integrated with the USSR and dependent on its policies'. Ironically, the OSS analysis (which also shows the influence of their war partner KGB [rather NKVD]) concluded with a categorical conclusion: 'The Czech émigrés are convinced that the USSR did not adopt their economic or political methods of Soviet communism in the Czechoslovakia will introduce.'

In a changed political climate, the Allied missions found themselves in the humiliating position of talking to the wind and unable to count on Skoda's cooperation. Since the relevant American documents are not available, there is no trace of the reaction of the US Army spy force to the 'shoving' it was subjected to. The same applies to the report that was [possibly] sent to Washington. Two British intelligence reports made available to me at the Imperial War Museum in London leave no doubt that the Czech obstructions to British missions were intended solely to prevent Skoda and Krupp technology from getting into American or British hands before any data of the Red Army located on the factory premises are handed over

could. On May 12, during the handover of operations to the Russians, the head of the first British espionage mission, Colonel James Brierley, was present. He wrote the following in his message: 'The employees of the Skoda works claimed that the buildings that had contained technical drawings were completely destroyed along with their contents, so they could not show any plans for research projects. A conversation with a lower-ranking employee revealed that the company's plans, which had been microfilmed, were for standard projects [production projects] as well as development projects. The microfilms are said to have been hidden outside Pilsen.'

However, Skoda's management claimed that they were not aware of any microfilms and declined further discussions on the subject. [...] The repeated high-level requests to make the microfilms available to Prague went unanswered.

The belated requests for this information underscore the fact that, given the extremely effective SS counterintelligence screen, the British were unable to infiltrate the German-run factory. Brierley noted in his report, referring directly to SS counter-espionage measures, that this shielding was so effective because all key data on experiments or the assembly of secret equipment was either exclusively handled by SS technicians or sent to Germany to counteract sabotage and information leakage.

The second British mission spent four days in Pilsen, September 22-25, and was misled in the same way. HG

Barber, their civilian director, wrote the

following: 'During the meeting with Skoda's General Manager, its English-speaking Commercial Director and two Czech Army officers who were showing the guests around the plants, we only heard excuses about why no technical information about Skoda's activities during of the war are present. Considerable damage caused by bombs belonged to

the most common

evasions.' The Czech factory administrators succeeded in protecting what was entrusted to them. They guarded this secret as fiercely as a romantic hero guards his beloved. Brierley's final report proves this. His requests for specific information about pipe-drawing equipment, steel casting technologies for cannon barrels, or the technical measuring equipment that Skoda had sophisticated in the research department were simply not met. Skoda's reasoning that equipment and documents' were destroyed and burned in the recent airstrikes.

Also, no information was made available on experimental development work on small caliber guided missiles manufactured elsewhere. It is believed that the American team was able to secure two such projectiles along with their data.

Brierley was not discouraged and still hoped that his recommendation to 'send more researchers to Skoda, and to involve a British armaments expert on the next American mission', as well as his suggestion that Skoda give instructions on how to prepare organization charts for their research and development department should have had a certain chance of success. This was another example of the kind of political naivety that was common in the West at the end of the war - to the delight of the pragmatic Russians, who took the shorter 'come and take away' approach."

The Russians effectively took control of all branches of the former group and immediately harnessed it to the wheels of its own armaments industry - which even included, as Agoston describes, an "underground, undamaged cannon factory". In contrast to the West (where people almost didn't want to believe it for a long time), armaments production in the USSR just continued at a slightly slower pace after the war than in the years before. In the early 1960s, the USSR was still producing around 2,000 tanks a month! Among other things, Skoda was used to drive screws for

to manufacture submarines (which, by the way, were copies of the German Type XXI submarines). German engineers designed landing hydrofoils for the USSR Navy in Pilsen.

As I have already mentioned, there is another source that sheds light on the fate of the documentation on the secret SS research facility in Pilsen in particular. It is a report by director Wilhelm Voss himself, which is also included in Agoston's book.

From this it emerges that the youngest trustee of the major armament secrets of the Third Reich (who had been department head in the Speer Ministry, among other things) came to Pilsen in his car on May 10, 1945. He moved slowly along a narrow road amid the civilian columns, avoiding the increasingly common bomb craters. Most of these were in the city at the works themselves. They were a souvenir of the recent air raids on the defense complex on May 17th and 25th. His mission was very dangerous, after all he could be arrested at any moment.

Therefore, he tried to choose the most favorable time for its realization and had previously stayed with his family in a place unknown to anyone, namely in a hunter's hut near Votice (Wotitz). He had a free hand in that he had been formally relieved of all his posts by Goering on January 27 (having protested against the appointment of any of the Reich Marshal's protégés). Nonetheless, he was well known to the workers and they liked him. He counted on them not to give him any trouble and let him into the factory premises. As he said in 1949:

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"I was hoping to convince the American officers at the works, in the face of [their] possible takeover by the Red Army, that salvaging what could be salvaged from the advanced research-related data and drawings was highest defense interest of the United States. If this material fell into Soviet hands, all the technology behind it would have posed an undeniable threat to Western security."

Voss knew exactly how the Soviet machine worked. In the

In the early stages of the war, up until the summer of 1941, he led delegations to Moscow several times, which were intended to pave the way for the then allies to cooperate in the armaments sector (or perhaps just pretend?). It was then that he had the opportunity to see for himself the professionalism of Stalin's servants and how greedy the industrial machinery there was for western technical ideas.

During his escapade in May 1945, Voss could not hide his nervousness. The tension reached its peak when he drove up to the main factory gate. The security guard recognized him immediately and raised the barrier, ignoring the American soldier sitting next to him. However, Voss noticed that he picked up the phone at the same time.

After a short time, a young Czech who had been given the task of escorting the former director arrived. During the entire stay on the factory premises, he didn't take a step away from him. They headed towards the headquarters building. On this occasion, Voss noticed many soldiers from Patton's army. He didn't record a conversation with them, but he had only one thought in mind: how to convince them of the importance of the material coming from the Kammler research team?

For the time being, however, he did not know where it was and whether it would even be possible to take it over. During the conversation with the Czech management staff, Voss became aware of the first obstacles. The Czechs were without exception loyal to the new Czech leadership, although for the time being it was still a long way off. There were no old hands with whom he had had good contact, and the new management representatives looked at him with suspicion. Voss's arguments were not particularly convincing under the circumstances. He knew he had to find out what had happened to the documents before he could contact US Army officers. As he left the building, he met one of the designers who had worked on the Kammler team (although Kammler had not assumed direct management of that team until right at the end of the war). He knew this man very well and was able to talk to him a little later.

The further description is so interesting that it will be best to

if I hand the "quill" to Agoston himself:

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"Voss learned that his 'contact person', together with two conspiratorial SS counterintelligence officers, had already drawn up a similar plan to bring the research documentation to the American occupation zone in Germany. The most important selected documents and data were already packed in boxes that rested under the tarpaulin of a truck. The truck itself was parked at the administration building. The summons was accompanied by papers describing them as 'personnel files and receipts of payment'.

Voss also heard that some of the technical drawings from the research department had been microfilmed at a time when defeat was already inevitable; the microfilms were then taken away by the Czech members of management. The informant's exact whereabouts were temporarily unknown. He was already trying to leave the factory premises with the truck with two helpers, but they finally stopped the 'action' because they came to the conclusion that it was impossible to carry out at the time.

Voss therefore decided to take the bull by the horns. It was high time to contact the responsible American officer. Now that he was aware of the whereabouts of the research documentation, he had better arguments. The officer listened to Voss, then without much ado gave a thumbs-down. The instructions he received said that everything should be turned over to the Red Army, and everything meant everything. That was her zone. Everything on the Skoda site was to be preserved, and the officer's job was to see to that.

Voss explained in detail who he was and why he risked his life to get to Pilsen. [...] As a seasoned arms dealer used to military obstacles, he was on the right track. He could not have known of Joint Chiefs of Staff Order No. 1067 of April 24, 1945. It required American military personnel to 'remove all documents

To protect plans, notes, scientific data and information belonging to German organizations involved in military research' from destruction and takeover.

The American officer was unimpressed. He wasn't willing to break service regulations. He had nothing to do with the intelligence service. In addition, a few days ago, an American armaments team inspected the works and took away two guided missiles found on the test site. Surely they would already have 'taken everything they needed' – Voss heard from the officer.

However, Voss tried again. He told the American that the boxes contained documents relating to research of great importance to the West, involving a narrow elite of scientists and designers. They were to be brought across the border into the American occupation zone as quickly as possible and handed over to the nearest US Army headquarters before the Russians (who were yet to be seen in the area) took over the factory. Voss urged the officer not to consider the material part of Skoda's inventory to be handed over to the Soviet Army by Patton's units.

This made not the slightest impression on the officer. 'He didn't want to hear anything' about the secret SS research activities on the factory premises. It wasn't his job to worry about it. The war was already over. He and his people were hoping for a quick return home and had no intention of wasting their time taking inventory or moving 'any damn boxes'.



General Richard Bissell – one of the coordinators of American intelligence in the Czech Republic during the early post-war years.
(Internet)

Voss achieved nothing at all. When he spoke about these events four years later, he was still outraged at the hopeless situation at the time: 'It was indescribable stupidity. The officer was actually aware that this was an intelligence matter and the procedure required him to call the nearest intelligence staff for instructions. The fact that he didn't even want to listen to me was a real shock. I had assumed that an American officer would have more common sense than a Wehrmacht officer in a comparable situation. However, remember that to him I was an ordinary German, we had just lost the war and he didn't have to listen to me or believe anything.' Voss spent the night at the factory site and witnessed the handover of operations to the Soviet Army two days later (May 12). On the morning of that day he noticed a British Army staff vehicle in which a group of officers had just arrived. He was informed that it was a British mission that had been delegated to inspect the workshops and factory. However, Voss quickly found out that he would have no chance of making contact. Exactly at this point in time, as part of the handover procedure, the Wehrmacht trucks on the premises were divided into several different groups. Suddenly Voss noticed his 'contact person' [a German from Kammler's group] walking slowly with two colleagues in the direction of the truck on which the boxes with the documentation were located. They looked quite ordinary; they climbed into the cab and drove slowly toward the US Army parking lot, where vehicles not scheduled for surrender were parked. However, a vigilant US Army soldier noticed the whole thing and motioned with his hand to turn back.

An equally vigilant Red Army transport officer did not want to miss his chance either. He motioned for the driver to pull up, then let all three get out. The vehicle has been unloaded. One of the boxes was open. Only a few seconds later the people who almost saved Soviet submachine gun. [...] research documentation for the West marched in front of

When Voss saw the works being turned over to the Soviet Army and the loss of SS research secrets that he was so anxious to prevent was irreversible, he decided it was high time the self-imposed mission was over to give up and return home. Suddenly – as he later recalled – he noticed some Czech members of the 'Kammler Group' getting into cars that were parked in a row next to the administration building. He knew them all, although none of them gave any indication of recognizing him.

Probably these were people who represented the top of the SS research team and decided to stay in the Soviet zone of influence.”

Of course, the information presented above need not reflect the whole truth about the Allied aspect of the race for the achievements of German research programs in the area of interest to us. During my search in the American archives, I came across notes in the so-called "inventory" on potentially interesting groups of files about the Third Reich that are still top secret. These are personal documents of the Chief of the General Staff, including “Material belonging to the special distribution 57, 58 The situation is similar with British resources. succumbed”.

Still, it seems unlikely that the Americans and British were able to secure significant amounts of documentation on advanced research projects in Czechoslovakia. Of course, this applies in particular to the most interesting documents, which are best guarded both by the Germans and later by the Czechs:

1. The legacy of the SS team from Pilsen. It is precisely from her that we know that she fell into Soviet hands ("very advanced" works

on a drive for flying objects based on phenomena from the field of atomic physics).

2. The legacy of the Heisenberg group from the Jáchymov area (atomic bomb), whose fate is currently unknown.
3. The achievements of the Prague facility, which belonged to the narrow world elite in the field of "stealth" technology - their fate is also unknown for the time being.

So the still unresolved issues are more related to the Russian secret services. Some of what else they encountered is well known!



General Viktor Abakumov – the head of “SMERSH”. (author's collection)

In May 2006, during my research in government archives near Washington, I managed to find a real "rarity", namely post-war American military intelligence materials describing Russian actions in this area! 59 Until recently they were top secret.

While this is brief information, it comes from the "highest" and most informed sources! All documents come from the office of the military attaché at the US Embassy in Prague - in other words, the resident of US military intelligence. You give the impression that the Americans only realized in the fall of 1945 how many important "scientific treasures"

they had overlooked in the former protectorate. Attaché General Richard Bissell had very good contacts in the Czechoslovak General Staff.

This provided him with information (at first sparse) about operations undertaken by Soviet intelligence services after reaching these "overlooked" locations.

Bissell therefore tried to use every opportunity to get more detailed data.

Incidentally, Bissell was considered one of the most outstanding officers in American intelligence, after the war he was among others

Deputy CIA Director of Planning Affairs, planned the Bay of Pigs landings in Cuba and was implicated in the Kennedy assassination.

Of the several documents I brought with me, the first (chronologically) is probably the most interesting - it dates from September 15, 1945. The text uses the code designation "CARNIVAL", which undoubtedly refers to the Russians. Therefore, when translating them, I replaced them with "soviet", "soviet" and the like. replaced: "Sender: Embassy of the United States⁵⁹ in

Prague, Czechoslovakia.

Recipient: Department of War.

No. 18, 09/15/1945.

TOP SEC Msg. #18 to Milid and Main USFET - for Sergeant Woldike.

War Minister Svoboda, General Božek and General Molotkov came to Moscow on the 14th to put pressure on Soviet troops to be withdrawn according to the original agreement and to stop the industrial requisitions still being carried out by the Russians.

The Russians first made postulates to General Božek, then forced him to submit demands related to the handing over of all German plans, models, parts and technologies for the atomic bomb, new missile weapons, radar-jamming submarines, disruptive colors, and the like. to be fulfilled directly. [The last two posts most likely refer to the "stealth" technology, the "new missile weapons" could be missiles, but the word "new" also raises the suspicion that it

could be work of the SS in Pilsen].

The source claims that at the recent foreign ministers' conference in London, China, Russia and France unsuccessfully demanded the transfer of secrets about the atomic bomb. The next day, a Soviet infantry battalion with technical troops occupied the mine and factory in Jáchymov (Achimuv) (St.

Joachimsthal) - the only places in Europe producing uranium - although the Russian-Czech treaty does not include the occupation of this area.

Since then, the Russians have been demanding that the Czechs triple the amount of material conveyed. My source is a directly involved Czech General Staff Colonel with the [highest] credibility rating 'A' [...]."



Jáchymov – one of the tunnels, current photo. (Internet)

An interesting detail that makes you think is the mention of the battalion (which can number up to 500 soldiers) sent to Jáchymov along with auxiliaries. These are suspiciously powerful forces. This suggests a large-scale exploration of this region. As an aside, the attaché must have believed it was uranium from a mine!

A second report from September 19 not only talks about "interest" in German projects, but also about very effective measures: 59

"The source is an officer of the Czech

Counterintelligence: Shortly after the liberation, the Soviet technical missions demanded German secret weapons and were

brushed off. At the beginning of June a second, much stronger mission [resp. with "stronger powers"] and received any parts after exerting pressure.

The third technical mission came directly from Moscow, with a categorical request to provide it with all the details, after which any plans were shown. They got some parts, but the Czechs kept some of the secrets to themselves. Shortly thereafter, a technical team from the Americans also came on the same matter. After initial attempts at deception, when I finally began to press and invoke the alliance against Japan, an interview with a captured scientist was agreed.

Shortly after the big stir involving the Russians, General Božek ordered the court-martial of the officers who had helped the Americans (after much excitement he reversed the order but warned his officers, cautious because of the Russian attitude). to be).

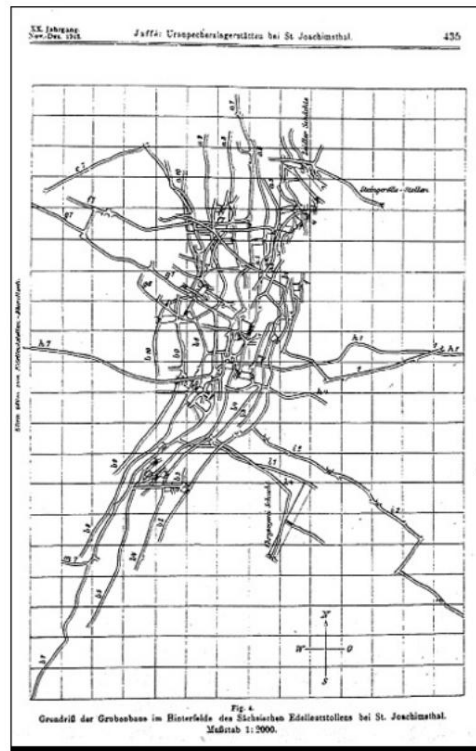
On August 31, the third and most important Soviet mission arrived directly from Moscow and exerted such pressure that Božek ordered everything to be handed over to her and everything to be withheld from us.

The source has a complete list of all Czech and German scientists. She will make these persons accessible to us if necessary. The USSR is offering them ten million kroner [each], a decent house in Moscow, special food and vehicles - if they agree to go there and work for them.

A scientist disappeared in this way in the middle of the night, along with his wife. Her belongings were seen being loaded onto a Soviet truck.

A member of the Soviet mission tried to bribe the source with ten million crowns to 'work with him'.

The British military attaché received an anonymous note that spoke of the occupation of the Jáchymov mine, but it did not contain any new details compared to previous information."



A plan of the underground facilities in Jáchymov. (author's collection)

The third document, which I no longer wish to quote, deals with making available the aforementioned lists of scientists.

On the one hand, this material clearly shows that the Russians were, firstly, aware of the greatest scientific-technical mysteries left behind by the Third Reich; secondly, they had such great power that they were able to force the transmission of all known materials.

The sending of mission after mission at short intervals and the very strong financial incentives clearly demonstrate the priority of this matter. You can also see that the Russians were well informed - if only because they were concentrating on the really important things, ie the technology to reduce radar visibility and work on nuclear weapons. There was no talk of nuclear technology, but directly of a bomb! This, together with the information about Pilsen, gives credence to the thesis that the Russian scientific and technical services probably took over all available leftover materials and information related to key concepts! It looked similar

also in neighboring Lower Silesia.

The material collected by Rainer Karlsch proves that, among other things, 36 nuclear physicists of the Third Reich and the concepts of a German atomic bomb with a centrally placed deuterium fuse (!) and a nuclear warhead for the V2 rocket were brought to the USSR to be used against Great Britain. This also confirms that the Russians probably took over all the essential materials related to this aspect of German research and production preparations.



An aerial view of the Jáchymov area. (author's collection)

Incidentally, I can remember a conversation in 1997 or 1998 with the well-known researcher Jerzy Rostkowski about the *giant* project in the Owl Mountains. At that time he shared with me completely unknown and amazing things: He mentioned, among other things, that the intelligence investigation in this case had been coordinated by the well-known physicist and academic Lev Andreyevich Artsimovich. As it turned out after my examination, he was a world-renowned expert in the field of nuclear fusion research and plasma physics. I was amazed at this because I didn't know anything about the connection between the Owl Mountains region and this research area. Neither me nor

others had written something about it. So if the Soviet intelligence service hired such a man, it certainly meant that he knew exactly what was going on there, despite the exceptional level of secrecy (this is just a side example).

It all adds up to a somewhat grisly picture of incredible capability, especially when we compare it to the somewhat infantile approach of the Allied intelligence services, who didn't understand certain issues at all and were unprepared to solve them (see "radar-jamming submarines"). The question arises how such results could be achieved.

Of course, neither the Czech Republic nor Lower Silesia were regions that would have been representative of the whole Third Reich in terms of the realization of valuable projects. Usually, wherever "SMERSCH" / MIF (Military Counterintelligence) or NKVD (Interior Ministry) teams appeared, the places were stripped of anything of value and there was not even a trace of the scientists – all of them fled to the west. There were of course exceptions: a design office e.g. B., which had not destroyed documentation or a prototype because it was very proud of him; one did not manage to destroy everything, or somewhere hidden documentation could be found - mostly in the course of interrogations. As a rule, however, it was different and the Russians were in a much worse situation than, for example, B. the American technical intelligence service, to which everyone came of their own accord, especially the scientific elite.

As already mentioned, a Soviet documentary film has been preserved, which was filmed after entering the underground *middle plant* ("Dora"). The film commentary shows an authentic, almost childish bitterness - the Americans had taken everything and only scattered, completely useless scrap left behind! For this reason, the Russians were (contrary to popular belief) willing to offer much more to the willing experts than the Americans, while having a much better orientation in certain key areas, especially those related to the facilities in their sphere of influence troops stood.

These circumstances even gave rise to speculation that Kammler

himself could have come to terms with the Russians. That doesn't seem particularly likely to me though - they would have had little use for him.

Some time ago, an acquaintance lent me an *ARD* program on VHS tape about the scientific-technical "drainage" of the Soviet Union. Ursula Gröttrup (daughter of the famous aircraft designer Helmut Gröttrup) stated the following:

"The Russians made fantastic offers. In addition, when the Americans contacted him while he was still in the Harz Mountains, they were interested in father's attitude, whether he was a Nazi [...] which was actually appalling. After that, they suggested that he go to the United States, but without a family – there was this point and not everything suited him, so he refused. [...] So he could choose where he wanted to go. At that point, the Russians were the more comfortable 'business partners'. They made a good offer that would allow him to stay in Germany with his family and he should get a lot of money."

Then Boris Chertok, a Soviet officer, commented:

"We created extraordinary conditions for him. We gave him his own villa with servants, provided him with a German construction team, and made him the most important figure. We relieved him of all worries – he should only work."

Then Ursula Göttrup spoke again:

"As the so-called manager of the central works [in Bleicherode], my father had a free hand in choosing his employees, who came in large numbers. Everyone was hungry, there was hunger everywhere. Everyone wanted to work, everyone was an efficient employee."

Lloyd Wenzell and Wolf E. Samuel, two former officers of the American Air Force (scientists and documents were brought to the USA by plane), spoke in the same *ARD* program about the "great internal resistance" in America, representatives of the scientific "Nazielite" to bring into the country. There were such voices of protest both in public and in Congress, at the instigation of Jewish and left-leaning circles, among others. Independently of

German scientists (who still had prisoner status!) could not take part in secret projects under current law!

Such is the broad outline of the difference between truth and myth in the comparison between the American and Soviet drainage of technology and scientific concepts.

True, after a certain time the circumstances changed – the scientists in the United States assimilated with the defense/space sector there.

Those who worked for the Russians were taken to the USSR (along with their families) in the fall of 1946 and gradually replaced by Soviet scientists in later years. What was decisive, however, were the measures implemented in 1945 and the advantage in competence of the Soviet secret services (paradoxically above all the counterintelligence services) over their Allied counterparts.

The basis for the “move” was Stalin's order to house all scientific teams safely inland. Altogether, this affected more than 5,000 people - most of the aircraft experts went to Kuibyshev, the rocket experts to Gorki near Moscow, and the nuclear physicists and engineers to the completely isolated city of Agudzera in Abkhazia. Hellmuth Banas (Banaÿ?), one of the German specialists in jet engines, remembers:

“Everything was set up just like in Germany before departure.

There was chocolate and cake on the table, which lay on it just like on the day of departure from Germany.”

It didn't matter here whether one of the scientists had previously been a fanatical National Socialist - despite all the ideological madness of the Stalin era. Once the daughter of one of the designers became seriously ill and needed a blood transfusion. The father firmly refused that his daughter should have Soviet blood in her veins. The daughter died, but apart from such spectacular cases, a Nazi past had no significant consequences.

Another is the question of the actual use that the Russians could derive from the aforementioned “most interesting” concepts realized in the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia and in Lower Silesia. It is difficult to say what happened to the achievements of the SS

Teams from Pilsen happened. However, I have information that suggests that this work ended up being sidetracked over time, but that certain 'splinters' surfaced as late as the 1990's. Despite all appearances, the topic is not "dead", which I will come back to in the next chapter.

However, the Russians got almost no benefit from "stealth" technology (although this direction was taken by the Americans). Certain trends in aviation development simply had an influence on this, which resulted from a great many factors. The most important area of application for the Germans (protecting surfaced submarines from detection) was no longer relevant when nuclear propulsion allowed a much longer stay under water. For similarly prosaic reasons, the original German trends in nuclear weapon design were discarded.

This trend was suddenly broken by Stalin's administrative decree, which ordered research to be stopped and American bombs to be copied.

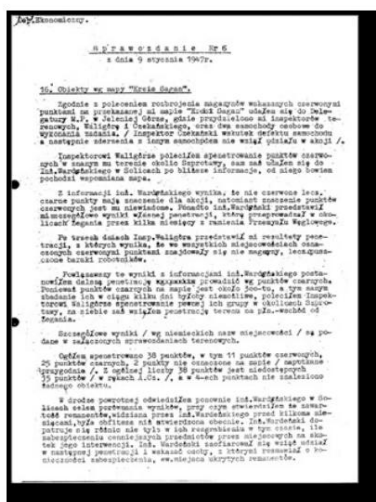
21st Century Weapons?

In this chapter I would like to come back to the activities of the Germans and the SS in Lower Silesia and in the Eulengebirge, as they are related to the subjects described in the previous chapters.

The information presented in the previous chapters shows that the activities of the SS were concentrated in the nearby Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia. The areas of interest corresponded to the peculiarities of this area and were in a way the reason for the existence of the "SS model state". This primarily concerned chemical weapons and carrier systems for the arsenal of mass destruction. In this context, however, the question arises as to why the Germans did not limit themselves entirely to the Czech Republic. Why were some elements of the emerging larger plan nevertheless settled in Lower Silesia?

We don't know, but I think we can explain it relatively convincingly. The Czech Republic had the advantage that the SS services responsible for the development of new weapons controlled the developed industrial and research structure there. Despite Speer's cockiness

SS control of many institutions was maintained throughout the war for the prosaic reason that the Reich Ministry of Armaments and War Production did not even have the ability to determine what the individual research institutions associated with the SS Main Operations Office were doing. However, despite these favorable circumstances, the protectorate had certain shortcomings that could be avoided by placing certain program elements on the northern side of the Sudetes.

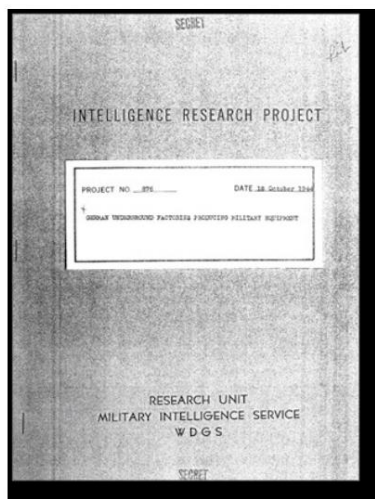


In 1947, the leader of the so-called "Action to Disarm the Oder Line" tracked down the facility near *Yagay* (Sagan), but it was not possible to reach the underground complex because it was under water. (author's collection)

Lower Silesia had the main advantage that it was inhabited exclusively by German population. Even large-scale projects could be realized here. Something like this would probably have been much more difficult and risky in the Protectorate. An additional important argument could have been the better accessibility of workers, which was guaranteed by the Groß-Rosen concentration camp, which was built around 20 km north of *Waýbrzych* (Waldenburg), mainly for the purpose of building armaments facilities. Lower Silesia also had a better developed transport infrastructure. Above all, however, this region was much safer.

Taken together, the information known to date and published in this book provides a relatively coherent picture of the

Preparations for the "decisive" phase of the war, which in all probability the term "Sonderkampf" described (see Volume II). This picture was composed of the following elements:



		Use western side. Entrance to factory is in the SE corner of the city.
Westerlager	ammunition	only plant where ammunition, material and assembly for 30. cal. is being produced. Plant partly hidden underground.
Sagan	rocket bombs	German soldiers reported on Aug. 1 that 15 km. from Sagan on a branch of 1200 there is an underground factory in the woods with an aerodrome. Factory presumably manufacturing an atom bomb rumored to be a new weapon. An aerodrome near Sagan is reported in process of conversion to experimental production.
Sarstedt	ammunition	Factory in village below, Sarstedt and inside. Largest part of plant underground. Thousands employed here.
Schomberg	explosives and rocket projectiles	Important underground factories for rfg. explosives and rocket projectiles have been constructed at Schomberg on the Elbe 11 km. S. of Magdeburg. Explosive factories are located at Salzwedel 6 km. S. of Hohenhausen near Jucha-Wies, which are believed to be the central troop depot factories.
Mayer		At Mayer is a huge plant manufacturing a large number of this

The first page of the American report on Third Reich underground facilities, as well as an excerpt mentioning the now unknown facility near yägaŷ (Sagan) that was involved in the production of nuclear weapons.

(NARA)

1. Pilsen – the main research center of the SS; it coordinated work on a new engine based on phenomena from the field of nuclear physics. 40, 41
2. yroda ylyska (Neumarkt in Schlesien) - probably an SS auxiliary research team (which was "co-opted" to the Wehrmacht Laboratories). The source in this case was "only" one person who had been analyzing interrogation materials of members of the evacuation squad in previous years [name reserved].

3. A number of facilities directly related to chemical weapons (the "SS Arsenal"). They can be divided into those that were involved in the production of poisonous warfare agents themselves (Brzeg Dolny / Dyhernfurth, Dýžín / Tetschen-Bodenbach, Kolín, Pardubice / Pardubitz)^{27, 26}, "weapon systems" such as B. warheads and aircraft spreaders (again Pilsen, Tannwald, Brno, ěakovice) 26 manufactured and engaged in production in secondary areas 26 and are gas masks (Zámky) portable devices (Zlín / – with it Gottwaldov)²⁶ meant. The materials presented in the chapter on preparations for chemical warfare clearly show how comprehensive this aspect of Third Reich armaments was and how closely related it was to the SS. One more detail on this point: if Keith Sanders' account of the "chemical" version of the *tiger lily*, printed in one of the previous chapters, is to be believed (it sounds credible to me personally), we must bear in mind that the work on This projectile, including the production preparations, were realized by the Ardelt works in Wrocław (Breslau), i.e. in the same special field, until January 1945.
4. Research and Development Department of the Jäger Staff in Księż (Prince's stone near Waldenburg). The source of information in this case is Prof. Mojdawa, a former inmate of Gross-Rosen who worked in the Technical Office (design office) of the concentration camp. This gave him access to information that was otherwise unobtainable (official and unofficial: he was a witness to many conversations between the Germans and had a "fleeting", but personal contact with Kammler - in 1944 he even received as a thank you for a exemplary manufactured brass door sign a bar of chocolate given by him). Mojdawa wrote in his book about Gross-Rosen (and supplemented this information with later testimonies recorded by me) about a connection between the facility in Księż and the Riese complex, based on the fact that strategic weapons were to be manufactured there, which (among other things) had been developed in Księż itself. They were supposed to be transporting a chemical arsenal, and the

Work was carried out by the SS in cooperation with the Luftwaffe. 31 One could therefore venture to claim that while Rilsen played the leading role as a scientific center where research was carried out on the propulsion itself, Ksiyy was similarly a center for coordinating work on weapon systems (delivery systems themselves, their tests, etc.). . E.).

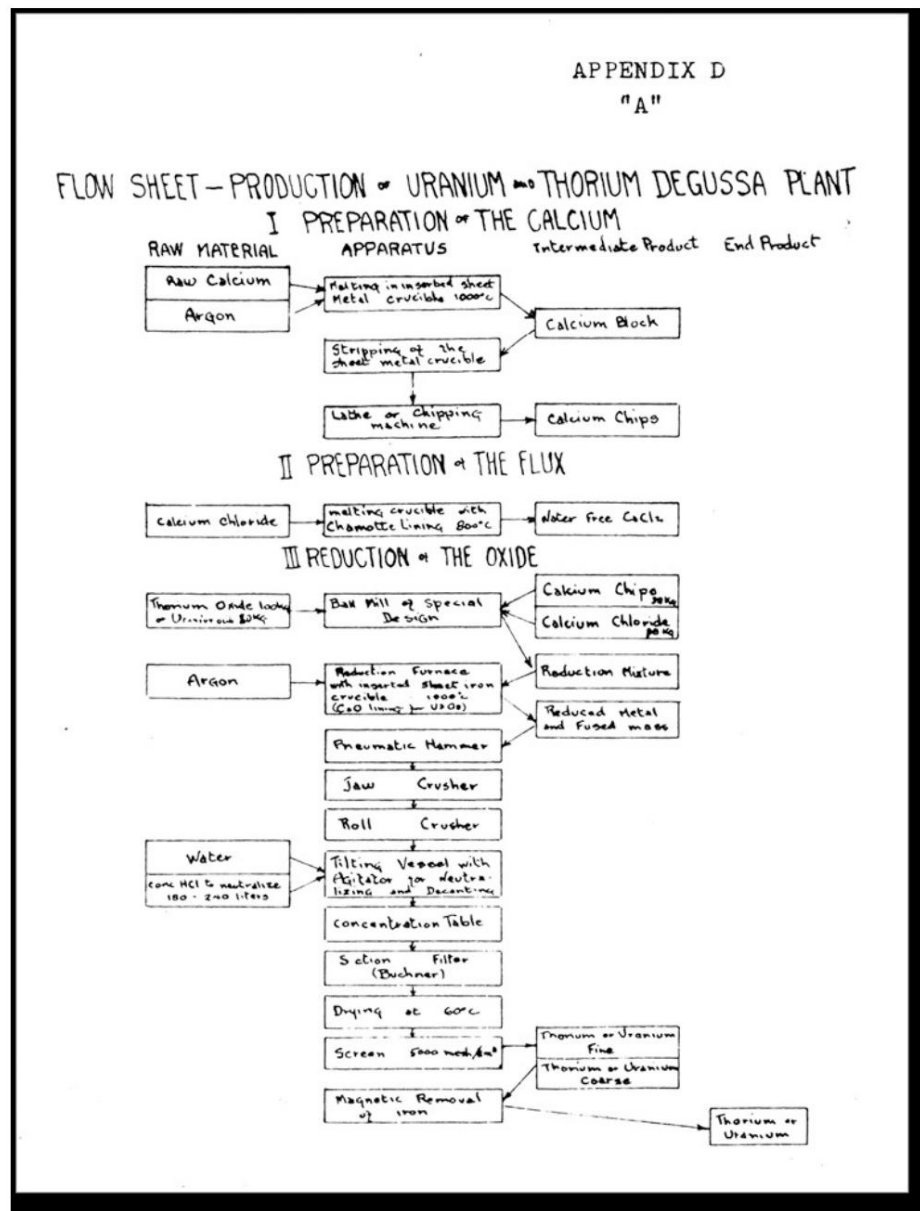
5. Ksiyy – the SS Center for High Frequency Research. As already indicated, various works were realized there. However, not all of them are known (see Speer's report), so it cannot be ruled out that, given the territorial context, this center played some role in the plans described here. It would have e.g. B. can work on guidance or navigation systems. One source are the documents of the Personal Staff of the Reichsführer SS. 24
6. Szczawno Zdrój / Bad Salzbrunn ("border area" between Waýbrzych / Waldenburg and Ksiyy / Fürstenstein; de facto both Ksiyy and Szczawno are on the outskirts of Waýbrzych). On the site of one of today's sanatoriums was an underground "space **Profiles**" created by Strughold and formally reporting to the Air Force's Institute of Aeronautical Medicine. It has been described previously (particularly in the second volume); their activity probably requires no special comment. The source of the information is Strughold himself - it's about the interview he gave to Kõkolewski. The facilities mentioned in points 4 - 6 were located almost in the same place, at a distance of about 2 km from each other.

Dresden	University of Dresden	Said to be heart of German development of the secret weapons. At the University of Dresden a group of chemists, engineers, and professors are working under the direction
SECRET		
INFORMATION ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE RAY Cont.		
<u>Location</u>	<u>Plant</u>	<u>Details</u>
Dresden Cont.	University of Dresden	of Heisenberg. Associates of Heisenberg are working on a by-product of radium at the Schicht mines in Aussig near radium mines at Jachymov in the Protectorate. (Cable, M/A Ankara, #99, 11 Apr 44, MTS Journal 298, 12 Apr 44. S.)
+	+	Experiments at Dresden Univ. with Ultra-Violet rays have failed. Their use is limited to stopping planes which include magnetized parts in their motors. (M/A Istanbul, Turkey, No. 9267, 21 Mar 44. S.)

Munich	Bayerische Motoren Werke (BMW)	This factory has changed over to making secret weapons. (P/W, BX-76, 18 May 44, S.)
Munich		Workmen in Munich says No. 2 weapon is a rocket bomb steered by radio. German Major says 1,000 per month produced. (Cable, Stockholm to State, 2 Sept 44, Johnson, Minister, S)
Munich	Bayerische Motoren Werke, Plant No. 1	This plant produced 400 airplane motors per month of a total German production of 12,000 a year. Motors of E & I groups of BMW Type 801. A & D groups produced elsewhere. They are experimenting with a new 35,000 hp motor.
		This experimental motor, BMW Type 806, is for use in a super plane to fly nearly to USA coast to release a robot bomb. The motor was ready for mass production in July - blueprint in British Legation, Stockholm.
		BMW Plant No. 1 completely destroyed. Production transferred to BMW plant No. 2 in <u>Munichen-Allach</u> . (Cable, Stockholm to State, 2 Sept 44, Johnson, Minister, S)
SECRET		
Munichen-Allach		Bayerische Motoren Werke plant No. 1 (at Munich) completely destroyed. Production transferred to BMW plant No. 2 at Munichen-Allach.
		No. 2 Bayerische Motoren Werke plant at Munichen-Allach has been experimenting with unknown type of poison gas (Cable: Stockholm to State, 2 Sept 44, Johnson Minis. S)
! Munich	University of Munich	P/W finds it difficult to assess which are regarded as the most important scientific research jobs being carried on in Germany at the present time. P/W says that undoubtedly the fields of physics and chemistry are
CENTRAL		

Two striking excerpts from the report detailed in one of the previous chapters. One concerns nuclear research carried out at the facility near Jáchymov by Heisenberg's group, while the other is devoted to the role played by the BMW plants in Munich in the manufacture of a strategic chemical weapons delivery system capable of attacking the United States should be used – both reports presented hitherto completely unknown

motives! (NARA)



A diagram of a technological process for the enrichment of thorium and other substances drawn up by the British intelligence service after the war - the Allies could never explain the aim of this work! (NARA / BIOS)

It would be hard to dismiss this as a coincidence.

- The Trial Base. It can be assumed with high probability that the test base in Lower Silesia (Ksiyö / Fürstenstein - "Altburg", Ludwikowice / Ludwigsdorf) is in the immediate vicinity

of the *giant*. The sources for this are Prof. Mojdawa and a former analyst mentioned in point 2. I would also like to quote the report of prisoner Jadwiga Dȳbiec: "There was also a concentration camp in Ludwigsdorf, about which almost nothing was known. These people were led in columns and each column was different. Her skin was colored, in fact her whole body was saturated with colour. What I remember best is a yellow and blue column [chemical production?]."

They were very closely guarded and you could tell they were exhausted - they didn't walk, but dragged themselves along with difficulty. I know they worked under the power station and were treated inhumanely. Groups of Jews also appeared there who were allegedly liquidated after a certain period of time and replaced by others."

There are Red Cross documents proving that two labor camps (subcamps of Gross-Rosen) in Ludwikowice were organizationally subordinate to the AL "Wüstegiersdorf" (Gȳuszyca), ie they were related to the *giant*. 65 Incidentally, as printed in Misłokabodes Gipsen, Rosen, it appears that the "Wüstengiersdorf Command" was subordinate to the Air Force Research Department, which Ksiȳ, which corresponding connection in the case as well suggested by Ludwikowice.

8. Munich (BMW) - according to intelligence sources, the only facility directly involved in work on strategic weapons to transport the chemical arsenal located outside the described region. This weapon system was intended to launch an attack on the United States. 26 In the intelligence report quoted in one of the previous chapters of "poison gas" was mentioned (substances based on phosphoric acid esters were unknown to the Allies).
9. Production - *Giant* in the Owl Mountains. His role in this program is evidenced by Prof. Mojdawa's words, including those directly related to the research department in Ksiȳ 31 (see Volume II, the report by from the

Main Commission for the Investigation of National Socialist Crimes (which is based on materials from the military intelligence service and witness reports from Germany) and the report by Jerzy Cera. The latter "debuted" as one of the first explorers of the complex in the Owl Mountains. In his book, he described how, as the head of a group of officer cadets, he had to endure the company of a Soviet "journalist" who later turned out to be a Baiqongyr-trained officer. That was in the early 1970s. 63 Mojdawa clearly linked the planned production of strategic weapons to the chemical arsenal. I would like to quote part of what Wilczur said on the subject:

64

"Based on the surveys, research and investigations conducted over the last several decades, we have every reason to claim today that the suggestion that the complexes in the Eulengebirge area were intended to serve as Hitler's future quarters is a lie. Of course, we do not rule out that a certain segment or fragment of the building was intended for Hitler's staff. None of this, however, could encompass several tens of kilometers underground. Such nonsense seems opaque not only to an expert in military or fortification engineering, but also to a person with no special knowledge. [...] As far as we know, it was supposed to be a huge armaments complex, in which the manufacture of weapons for special purposes, including weapons of mass destruction. [...] The military counter-espionage exerted undue pressure and coercion on native Germans who had stayed in the area of the 'giant' for some time after information thus obtained allows my opinion to be maintained as to the intended purpose of the facilities in the Owl Mountains."

10. It cannot be ruled out that a nuclear weapon arsenal in the form of warheads or bombs should also be used within the framework of the SS and Luftwaffe plans described (probably only in the future, since the production of chemical warfare agents was already

industrial scale was possible). In this context, one should not forget that in the area described here were (two) large facilities which, according to the intelligence service, were not so much "dealing with research into nuclear weapons" as they were "building" or "manufacturing"! It is of course about the previously described "Aussig" facility near Jáchymov in the Czech Republic 26 and "Sagan" (Yagaŷ) in Lower Silesia. ⁴⁴ As in

many of the cases described here, it was a secret underground facility. Additionally, the nuclear weapon motif appears in a few other places. It is about the city of Kowary (Schmiedeberg) described in Volume II and Dr. Wilczur's account of the military infiltration of part of the *giant* in the early 1960s, in which he mentioned the detection of uranium ore remnants in the underground passages. 32 The same was also reported by Anton Dalmus, the former main power engineer of the complex. In addition, it should be noted that my informant mentioned the connection between the works described in the last part of the second volume. The same group of reports includes information about a ship that was transporting blocks of graphite on the Oder. It was sunk in an air raid on August 17, 1944 near Stettin. New details about it have recently been published: 76 The ship was named *Artushof*; after the war, among other things, 38 2.5 m long and 60 cm wide graphite rods were salvaged from its hold. In this case, the resemblance to the order from 1941 is striking, when Siemens' "Plania-Werke" in Racibórz (Ratibor) had manufactured 100 blocks measuring 3 m by 60 cm (they were intended for the first reactor with a graphite moderator, which did not "want to work" due to the contaminated graphite - its location is still unknown, by the way).

The 1944 episode may have been related to the Gottow graphite reactor, but in such a case would the blocks have been transported on the Oder? Incidentally, the nuclear reactor was spherical, so the moderator blocks must also have had the corresponding shape. That could be a clue to the existence of another

reactor of this type, possibly in Lower Silesia.

11. Železný Brod (Eisenbrod) - about 40 km southwest of Kowary (Schmiedeberg) in the Czech Republic. Before the end of the war, a command and staff building was erected here in connection with the planned use of "guided long-range weapons". It was subordinate to the Luftwaffe. 31

12. Ksičy – this place appears in this list for the fourth time. It is almost certain that Hitler's headquarters (an underground command post of the central plane) was located here. Ksičy was only about a dozen kilometers from the *giant* as the crow flies, and according to one of the prisoners, an underground connection was already being built through which an electric train would run.

Well over 50,000 people, including the prisoners, were involved in these preparations, which even allows a comparison with the American "Manhattan Project" - in an SS version, in "cooperation" with the Luftwaffe (although the nuclear arsenal was in the background here). . Whether this program was not implemented because there were technological problems in connection with carrier systems, the establishment of the industrial base was delayed or perhaps because someone in the Third Reich feared the inevitable increase in influence of the SS too much (that cannot be ruled out either) - we will probably never find out.

An important "achievement" in this context for me is a previously unknown document about the *giant*. To be precise: I found some documents in the collection of the German Federal Archives in which this alias appears, but most of them were known beforehand and were also mentioned in the literature (all this is important because, despite the enormous extent of the whole project there is almost no documentation at all on this subject, at least that is the prevailing opinion). However, I would like to start with the most important.

The holdings of the Federal Archives are generally very well cataloged and described in terms of the key words appearing in the text, and these descriptions are also available in electronic form. Therefore, the impression could arise that researchers have already discovered everything there was to discover. However, that turned out not to be the case

quite correctly, because the document mentioned was previously unknown - I actually came across it by accident!

The document is dated December 12, 1944 (post-war signature: NS-19 / 3346) and was formally written in the SS Economic and Administrative Main Office (SS-WVHA) (the SS motive is dominant in this project). However, since it was signed by Gruppenführer Kammler, it seems likely that it actually originated in the so-called "Sonderstab" set up by Kammler in August 1943 on the basis of selected WVHA detachments and cooperating with the SS-Führungshauptamt (however, this question has no fundamental importance in this case and I would like to skip it here, although it indirectly shows the character of these Lower Silesian projects, since in general the organization "Todt" is considered to be the main administrator). The document is addressed to the Personal Staff of the Reichsführer SS and is a report on the implementation of an earlier Hitler decree related to certain special construction projects. It was therefore prepared personally for Himmler - so the matter must have been extremely important. Of course, it was also classified as secret. The document covers three subject areas: future SS buildings to be built for Himmler after the war in Berlin (this has no direct meaning for us), the concept of SS model cities for the post-war period (no connection with Lower Silesia) and finally something much more interesting: the intention to move the SS central offices from Berlin to the Czech "border areas"! border areas to what? This has not been defined, but we know for sure that e.g.

B. could not go to Thuringia. Basically, the matter is an interesting contribution to clarifying the previously signaled question of the "Sudetic fortress". Even more interesting is that in the same context the "secret" alias *S-III* is mentioned twice. According to the two-page "Index of aliases in German underground constructions..." the designation *S-III* includes the *giant*, the *Rüdiger* facility in Waýbrzych (Waldenburg - liaison center for the whole?) and an unspecified facility in Ksiýý (Fürstenstein) - probably Hitler's Quarters under the castle. So it was about something more than just the *giant* himself - it was about a lot

bigger endeavor. It's probably best to familiarize yourself with the contents of the relevant document excerpt:

"The Reichsfuhrer SS ordered a design for the command buildings [for] the Reichsfuhrer SS in Berlin. The preparatory work for this can begin as soon as the space requirements of the main offices in this command building [...] have been determined. At the moment, however, it is still silent, since the office C-IV, which is entrusted with this, has been deployed with all its strength in the special construction project 'S-III'. After completion of this construction project, the project will be resumed as soon as possible. The preparatory work for the decentralization of the main offices has progressed so far that the planned areas in the border areas of Bohemia and Moravia have been statistically explored. [...] Here, too, the intention is to entrust a competent, organizational, professional planner with the task after the end of the work for 'S-III'. [...]"

The last sentence clearly indicates that the SS central offices were not to be relocated directly to the *Riesen*, as some believe, since it was planned to start this work only after the completion of *S-III* (that is, after the completion of the *Riesen*, which incidentally is not in the border area with the Czech Republic). However, the most important conclusion that emerges from reading this document is different: it seems that *S-III* was the main project of the SS-WVHA (and therefore also of the SS) at that time, its realization blocked other projects, and the goal of this office (and Kammler's) was not to build Hitler's quarters, but to realize large armaments projects. As we know, Kammler was only responsible for a certain section of special armaments, namely new air forces and special long-range weapons.

A side note: the scheme of the project to be implemented is reminiscent in a way of the Japanese program for weapons of mass destruction - as if the Germans had followed the same pattern. There, too, different teams and centers acted completely independently, sometimes not even knowing about each other.

Therefore, the researchers z. For example, for a long time, the Tokyo RIKEN Institute focused exclusively on isotope separation, which gave them the main element

escaped: What Lower Silesia and the Sudetes were for the Third Reich (i.e. a secure mountain base with infrastructure) was for Japan Korea, especially the mountainous north. Comparable subterranean complexes were built there, and the “blessing” of almost unlimited free labor was also used there (prisoners of war, Korean villagers, but also Japanese children). This region is also characterized by a high concentration of industry. There arose a huge complex, designated by the Latin (!) letters *NZ*, where, under the direction of future Nobel laureate Yukawa Hideki, a nuclear weapons production program was being implemented inside the mountain, of which the Americans knew nothing at all. This program was carried out on behalf of the Japanese Navy. The equipment of the *NZ* complex was also taken away by the Russians after the war. The chemical and biological weapons programs were subject to a similar “segmentation” [source: R. Wilcox – “Japan's secret war”].

Of course, one could wonder why this Czech Lower Silesian “puzzle” is still incomplete, why it took more than 60 years to notice certain connections, why there are almost no original documents about projects that were supposed to “decide the war”. However, we must be aware of the fact that in the case of such secret projects, usually no particularly legible traces were left. After all, we don't even know the personal details of the people working for the SS in Pilsen, there is no documentation from Otto Schwab's "Technical Office" - not to mention the FEP position! This phenomenon is described, inter alia, in the book by Karlsch devoted to nuclear research:

37

"As far as the high degree of secrecy by the Germans themselves is concerned, a basic order from Hitler had already been issued in January 1940. The more the war situation deteriorated, the more suspicious he became. His pilot Hans Baur reported that Hitler suspected that there was a spy in his immediate vicinity. 'At the end of 1944 there was an atmosphere of mutual suspicion in the Führer's headquarters.' Hitler used to have particularly explosive conversations in private. This also applied to nuclear research. [...] In a larger group, it was only discussed in very general terms

the 'wonder weapons' spoken. If the conversation did take a concrete turn, it was no longer allowed to be recorded.

Even those responsible for nuclear physics research only conducted crucial discussions in private and did not record sensitive appointments in their work calendars. This is briefly explained using the example of Walther Gerlach [...]. His secretary, Giesela Guderian, kept an accurate diary and typed all his correspondence. However, as soon as a guest came up to Gerlach to report on the latest research, she was sent out of the room. Particularly important meetings were not allowed to be entered in the appointment calendar. [...]

Shortly before the end of the war, many secret documents were more or less systematically destroyed. The gaps in the files of the research departments of the Navy, the Air Force, the SS and the Reichspost are particularly large.”

It is never possible to cover all tracks or prevent information leaks with 100% effectiveness (hence the intelligence reports presented in this book); however, in the current situation, there is not much that can be done to complete the picture unless the results of the reconnaissance carried out by SMERSH (“MIF”) can be obtained in Russia.

Certain elements of this image have already been removed in the last part of the discussed in the second volume. I would like to cite one more example of an episode that is still mysterious to this day, which is part of a project that does not fit the known patterns at all, actually just as an example that in certain cases we only know scraps of information.

This excerpt was also taken from the book by Karlsch:

37

“Lindemayer's group dealt with the material testing of rocket parts. The technicians also received a special order.

They tested the stability of aluminum spheres of various sizes.

These experiments had already begun in Anklam, as Ingeborg Brandt, who was 16 years old and was conscripted to do office work at the Lindemayer Group, remembered: 'In front of our hall there was a kind of terrace. This is called the test bench. There was such a ball [...]. I myself estimate it to have a diameter of 1.80 m'

Irene König's description is more precise. She worked as a telex operator in Anklam and saw the ball experiments several times: 'Two aluminum balls were placed inside each other, one large and one small, and they steamed. At first I thought they boiled water in it. But of course I didn't dare to ask, it was all so secret.

We were then transferred to Friedland after the bombing. Lindemayer went to Nordhausen [perhaps this was connected with the previously described "strange" work in the "Mittelwerk"?], and Johann Grüner took over the leadership of the group. In Friedland, the balls were spun at high speed in a large cauldron. At times, a mighty roar and thunder could be heard.

The engineers then told us they were conducting tests on pressure reducers.' It should be noted here that such large aluminum balls did not exist in the known rocket constructions. The vapor observed could have been dry ice vapor used to cool an unknown material in the sphere."

These descriptions could be supplemented with a certain equally unusual (though perhaps somewhat distorted) statement by the Intelligence Service of the Polish Home Army from January 1944 in bring context:

16

"Information from January from a German sergeant. The Germans have already prepared 6 million 'flare balls', which will continue to be manufactured. It is said to be a caustic, burning liquid that destroys everything and is scattered by all types of projectiles."

The information about the SS armament program summarized at the beginning of the chapter again raises the question of the supposed "Sudetic fortress". This suspicion is justified insofar as in a single region a virtual conglomeration of a huge economic base was created, related to new weapons (which were to change the course of the war), complete with high-level command posts, even a new headquarters for Hitler. This is additionally confirmed by the already mentioned document about Kammler's plans, according to the SS central institutions

relocate to the Czech Republic. In this case, this "bulwark" was certainly more real than the mythical *Alpine fortress*. Tom Agoston asked this last cite an interesting description, as it does to some extent the real plan in Lower Silesia and in the Protectorate with the "Alpine myth", which, in all likelihood, was intended to divert the attention of the Allies from what was actually being prepared.

“What troubled Allied commanders most was the sudden influx of American intelligence reports from the Office of Strategic Services (OSS, the predecessor of the CIA). It reported that the Germans were preparing an 'armed national defense fortress in the Alps' in 'southern Germany and northern Austria' to enable Nazi commanders 'to continue the struggle'. According to the OSS reports, the 'fortress' was to be defended by 'state-of-the-art technical secret weapons and elite troops' who were 'trained to organize an uprising and liberate Germany from the occupying powers'. The 'Fortress' was to have a functioning command center near Salzkammergut in Austria and the highest command post at Obersalzberg near Berchtesgaden [that's exactly why it was bombed in the last days of the war!].

The 'national fortress' never really existed. It turned out to be nothing but a propaganda myth.

However, the Allies took the OSS reports literally. The erroneous assessment of the situation not only led to the main objective being missed during the Normandy landings, but also caused a shadow hunt at a critical stage in the encounter between East and West in Europe. Finally, it contributed to a fundamental change in the situation in Europe.

Today [...] the record of the events of April 1945 reveals an alarming level of political naivety. There was no shortage of such simpletons on either side of the Atlantic.

By March [1945], OSS reports were already playing such a role that they began to influence Allied tactical thinking. By the spring of 1945, the 'national fortress' myth was spreading rapidly in military circles, despite objections from British and American [military] intelligence. [...]





The remains of Professor Strughold's underground research facility in Szczawno Zdrój (Bad Salzbrunn) on the outskirts of Wałbrzych / Waldenburg (in the outskirts of Książ / Fürstenstein), where, according to information provided by Strughold himself in an interview, there was a "space flight simulator" - not a low-pressure chamber, since "vibrations" could be felt, which "complicated the control" (so also no rocket, since manned rockets tend not to be tested underground).

This is a motif that sheds an important light on the projects realized in this region, but at the same time shows that, despite all appearances, space ambitions were not the exclusive domain of Peenemünde - the institution was subordinate to the SS, and we know that the SS realized their own ambitions in this area. The photos were taken by Jerzy Rostkowski, who was the first to reach this place and whom I would like to take this opportunity to thank for the photos. Although the author claims that all the rooms that can be seen are in bunkers, bunker basements and above-ground buildings, he was able to determine that the prisoners reached this place through a tunnel from Biały Kamień, which is a few kilometers away. It can therefore not be ruled out that there was "something else" besides the bunkers, all the more so since Strughold spoke directly of an underground chamber. J. Rostkowski's book about the history of this institution is due to be published soon!

There is no evidence that Allied commanders took any steps to verify the credibility of the initial OSS reports, despite their grave implications. The earliest and first OSS forecasts to use the term 'fortress' were published by the OSS Analysis Department on December 29, 1944. In a secret report, the expectation prevailed that 'after the end of the fighting the Germans will probably build fortresses (sic!)'. And further: 'The centerpiece of these plans will probably be a fortress, a

form a fortified, early prepared point of resistance in the mountains. It will be defended by strong partisan garrisons, which will serve as a base for survivors from partisan troops. From such a base, the Nazis will probably be able to resist for much longer. [...] It would be unreasonable to rule out the possibility that the fortress could serve as a base from which to unleash a final spectacular battle. It could be commanded by certain party leaders who would probably be too well known to go underground.'



On August 15, 2007, a group consisting of Piotr Każyła, Jacek Kazeł, Michał Szkuclarz and the author of this book, conducted preliminary investigations of a previously inaccessible section of tunnel in Jugowice (Hausdorf), which was part of the *giant*. The first explorations have been made - it is probably the first such case in recent decades that it has been possible to penetrate to a previously unknown part. (Photo: I. Witkowski)

The events that followed showed that there was no more behind the 'Fortress' than any other routine Wehrmacht Disinformation operation. They consisted of constantly spreading rumors about the imminent arrival of non-existent reinforcements and fictitious command posts; even inflatable rubber tanks were deployed in the field to mislead Allied aerial photography analysts. Such a rumor should have been immediately analyzed and dismissed by the OSS, instead of spreading it for several months and thereby influencing military and political strategy, which was supposed to work to the advantage of the Soviet Union.



More pictures of the "Włodarz problem" where the tunnel should be. The pumping station shown here is located above the point mentioned. (Photo: I. Witkowski)

[Not until] Eisenhower gave the order to occupy the 'Fortress' before

could have prepared the Nazis for defense, the Allied troops discovered that it was only a chimera. It consisted entirely of isolated and unrealized proposals put to Hitler by fanatics from Bavaria. Ultimately, the 'Fortress' turned out to be a realistic war game, which took concrete form after it had been processed by Reich Minister Goebbels' disinformation specialists. Eventually Goebbels leaked this information in Berlin to the reporters of the neutral countries.

They struck such deep roots with the Allied High Command that the reporters accredited to the Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force (SHAEF) (including me) were even shown an Allied map intended to document the distribution of German forces in the area of the 'fortress'. Bradley, who later became the head of the American Joint Chiefs of Staff, had to admit the following shortly after the war: '[...] only after the end of the offensive did we learn that this fortress had existed mainly in the imagination of some fanatical Nazis. The idea was so inflated that I'm surprised we could believe in it so unsuspectingly. At the time, however, this legend represented too great a danger to be neglected. As a result, it shaped our tactical thinking in the final weeks of the war'."

with one such intelligence service and With such decision-making mechanisms as revealed in the "Alpenfestung case", the Allies had no chance in the technical and intelligence race with the Russians – in an area in which the most valuable armaments projects of the Third Reich were concentrated. What's more, they also had little chance of properly detecting key targets in the Czech Republic and Lower Silesia, especially with two or three counter-espionage rings. On the other hand, if these "naive" analysts knew what a surprise the Germans were actually preparing for them.

For the Germans, the existing situation offered concrete advantages even during the war - the point is that the Allies based entire large-scale war operations on "information" that had no equivalent in

of reality had. It is precisely for this reason that the research facilities and production facilities related to the "SS Plan" were not bombed (with the exception of Pilsen, which may have been due to the fact that this city "happened" to be located on the Skoda site). The Germans actually had complete freedom of action there until the last weeks of the war!



The role of the described place in the vicinity of Włodarz is evidenced by intensive traces of work (suggesting a larger volume of work than under the known Włodarz complex) – including a huge rock slide together with the foundations for a stone crusher. (Photo: I. Witkowski)

No one has yet been able to reasonably answer a question regarding this period. It is about the mercury transports to Japan, which have already been described in Volume II. I have described cases relating to some submarines, although it must be said that, due to the secrecy, we really only know about the few submarines whose cargo was accidentally discovered in one way or another (the U 234, the U-859 and the U-530 in connection with the Japanese I-52 and UIT-25). The world only found out about these cases later because the ships mentioned had been sunk and their holds could later be examined, or - as with the U-234 - the ship was handed over to the Americans. Although we don't know about most of the trips, the data available is sufficient to suggest one

being able to speak as a mass phenomenon. It appears to have been of typical industrial proportions! I am writing about it because this episode is obviously important and could be related to Heisenberg's research in Jáchymov (St. Joachimsthal) or (and?) to the work on the *bell* described in the previous volume.

This fascinating data was recently supplemented by another case.

Recently, on January 10, 2007, the prestigious *International Herald Tribune* published an article describing the discovery of U-864, another ship sunk just off the Norwegian coast on February 9, 1945.



There are also numerous petrified bags of cement - cement - on the huge area

However, it could not be stored openly for long, there must have been a volume ready for concreting - which cannot be said of the well-known "Włodarz" because the tunnels for the most part do not even have the required cross-section.
(Photo: I. Witkowski)

In this case , **the entire submarine cargo was mercury, ruling out** the nonsensical theory that this dangerous material acted as ballast—the Third Reich had more important things to do than ship ballast to Japan! Here is an excerpt from the article: 66

"I knew it was a U-boat,' said Karlsen, a 73-year-old retired port pilot, pointing to the spot where an explosion occurred on February 9, 1945, against the backdrop of the gray expanse of the North Sea came.

That day, as he claimed during the interview, he was staying with his grandmother on the island where he was collecting peat. The island was then, like the rest of Norway, under German occupation. 'It was a big explosion, but immediately afterwards everything was quiet and I couldn't see anything at all,' he said, 'but all hell broke loose in the German garrison.' That's no surprise. The column of water and wreckage, which rose 60 m above the waterline, was the result of a torpedo explosion fired from the patrolling British submarine 'Venturer'. He hit the midships of the German submarine U-864, at the very beginning of its secret voyage to Japan.

As the German ship, which broke in two, slowly sank to the 120 m deep seabed, not only did it drag down 73 crew members, but also 65 tons of mercury for the Japanese ammunition industry, which, according to some historical accounts, coincided with the development of a new German jet engine in Japan Related was [this is probably a distorted echo of the English edition of The Truth About the Magick; Mercury fulminate was not used in munitions manufacture during World War II!]. This technique was intended to give the 'Axis' an advantage in the final stages of the war. Much later there were rumors - which could not be proven - that the ship was Nazi gold and even

had transported Hitler's last will and testament. [...]

However, the long saga of the U-864 is far from over. Many of the containers filled with liquid mercury corrode. A small amount of mercury has leaked into the sea, and surveys of the wreck environment currently being carried out by the Norwegian government have revealed slightly elevated levels of the metal in crabs and fish, the country's main exports after oil and gas. [...]

Norwegian officials say up to a third of the 1,857 containers of mercury that were previously carefully placed along the ship's keel were spilled on the seabed. Many have sunk in the mud, their condition unknown.”



The importance of the region of the assumed central sector is underscored by the fact that the Germans were already beginning to drill connections to other facilities of the complex. Evidence of this are the remains of buried ventilation shafts, which show the directions of these connecting tunnels. The two that can be seen in the photos are z. B. between this “sector” and the Rzeczka facility. (Photo: I. Witkowski)

I managed to find more information about this and other "mercury submarine transports" in the aforementioned book on "Axis" operations in the Indian Ocean and East Asia. 84 With regard to the U-864, the author also states that it

It was the only battle between two submerged U-boats during the war that ended in a scuttling - the British unit commander determined the target position with an echo sounder and probably fired Fido torpedoes with homing guidance.

The book presents many new facts about these strange transports. It also shows how immensely risky and costly the endeavor was. Only 42 percent of all transports reached East Asia - these missions could therefore be described as semi-suicidal! Despite many adversities and unmet deficits on both sides of the alliance, the fact that mercury made up no less than 45 percent of all goods sent to Japan by subsea route - it clearly took the first place (926.7 t)! Perhaps this number also accounts for mercury in the form of the radioactive amalgam previously mentioned on the occasion of I-29. Such a great importance of this metal makes the shipments of mercury appear as the primary goal of the "underground exchange" - a goal that no one has been able to explain until now.



One of the elements of the Czech-Lower Silesian puzzle is the underground strategic weapons guidance facility described by Prof. Mořdawa, which is said to have been located near Železný Brod (see map and above

photo) - I heard that the Russians even arrested some general there. I therefore went to Železný Brod to interview the locals - from the museum staff to the employees of the spatial planning and environmental protection department of the city office: however, no one knew of any underground structures and I was told that "the Air Force personnel only occupied a hotel here". Perhaps studying a good topographical map closely would bring better results, it would also be conceivable to ask foresters about any good paths (e.g. concrete paths) in the forest. On this trip, however, I noticed something else - in the immediate vicinity of the above-mentioned place there was a signpost to Jílové (Owl), a nearby town where, according to the most reliable information, Kammler "had vanished", ie he is said to have committed suicide there committed and alleged to have been immediately buried at an unknown location nearby. Again the question arises as to why a senior SS officer, who was incriminated like no other, threw himself into the arms of the Red Army and went in the opposite direction to his professional colleagues - but not in order to then commit suicide! (Photo: I. Witkowski)

Only 43 percent (396 t) of the metal reached the designated ports of destination. This information is based on generally available sources and does not include the secret fleet discovered by the Americans during a reconnaissance operation codenamed *Lusty* (which was partially destroyed - see Volume II), the existence of which the author of the book was apparently unaware of. However, he described many more entities that accomplished the "Mercury Missions". To complete the picture, I would like to list them briefly:

- Besides the submarine *Torellego* (UIT-25), which was captured from the Italians, other ships of this squadron also transported mercury. In this context, mention was made of units given the aliases *Aquila II* and *Aquila III* - it is uncertain whether this referred to both units or just one.
- On May 10, 1943, U-511 sailed from Lorient, commanded by Fritz Schneewind and carrying "mercury containers, a Daimler-Benz engine with an output of 3,000 hp, plans for a Type IX submarine and passengers".
- On July 15, it docked at Penang, Indonesia, and exactly one month later it reached Kobe, Japan.
- In the middle of 1944 the mercury transports increased significantly. on the 22nd

On August 12, two submarines left Bordeaux: that of Rolf Reisen

commanded U-180 and Friedrich Steinfeldt's U-195. The first contained "1843 mercury steel bottles", the second "54.5 tons of mercury" and a number of other goods, including spare parts for submarines stationed in East Asia. On December 28 only the U-195 reached its target. On September 9th, the U-862 commanded by Heinrich Timm also laid down in Penang, which delivered "mercury steel bottles". About two weeks later, after a five-month journey, the U-861 also found its way to Penang. In the case of the latter, too, mercury was the main charge – no less than 120 tons.

- Most of the "quicksilver ships" described in Volume II, including the U-859 (1959 steel cylinders, sunk at the end of September 1944) and the large Japanese I-52, also sailed at about the same time. •

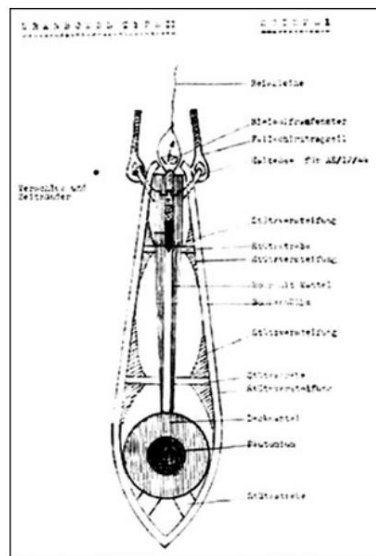
Intensive attempts to provide the ally with this obviously extremely important raw material were carried out continuously, but the risk increased almost with each subsequent month. Nevertheless, on August 24, 1944, a large submarine, type U-219, a type X special freighter, left Bordeaux, containing the following cargo:

“[...] a complete radio station for Kobe, spare parts for diesel engines, a torpedo balancing station for Penang, medicines for hospitals, equipment for the German radio station in Singapore, spare parts for Arado 196 aircraft and boxes of aluminum rods. Unpolished optical glass and mercury in steel bottles were placed in the ship's keel.”

U-219 arrived in Jakarta (Batavia) on December 11, 1944 and was the last submarine that managed to advance into East Asia. Three more were sunk, and the fourth U-234, previously described, surrendered to the Americans. ⁸⁴ On a side note, aluminum seems to be an equally surprising item on this list. Should it be such a valuable and unobtainable material for the Japanese? Perhaps it was the super-light alloy *Thol* mentioned in Volume II and in a report from the Home Army Intelligence Service? One of my consultants said it would be like transporting potatoes in a submarine.

And one more thing related to the third part of the last volume:

It is about the answer to the question of what kind of drive it was that the secret SS research team in Pilsen and a number of associated institutions were working on. How can this be explained if, on the one hand, the frameworks of nuclear physics are to be taken into account, but on the other hand, the criterion of technical feasibility at the time (although it is obvious that it was a thoroughly advanced concept)? What I would like to present in the further part of this chapter represents a certain hypothesis, which, however, is based on scientific principles. It is a further development of the interpretation of the German description from the last volume, but constitutes a separate whole (an addition), so it is not necessary to familiarize yourself with this earlier description. Nor is it a simple repetition.



The concept of a German atomic bomb disclosed by the Russians. They also adopted the nuclear warhead concept for the V2 and the A9. It may have been based on an idea of Heisenberg's who promised to build a charge with a sufficiently light weight of about a ton. (author's collection)

At first glance, it seems that building a propulsion system that met the above criteria was simply impossible, after all, the rocket propulsion monopoly has not been broken to this day. Maybe it was some kind of pipe dream, some great scientific-technical error, some kind of experiment, a *perpetual motion machine*, etc. to build?

However, if a major armaments program was based on the whole, and the work was "very advanced", then the prospect of a practical use of this breakthrough must have been real and near. The official and unprecedented qualification of the concept as "crucial" (see Volume II) also had to be based on some concrete data. Incidentally, the task I have set myself is based on finding a meaningful explanation that would correspond to the mode of operation of the device described in the previous volume. Only when it can be conclusively proven that the construction of such a device was impossible can it be assumed that some great error was involved.

We usually associate nuclear physics with a reactor or a bomb. In this case, however, it could very well have been different. Nuclear physics is also the source of a number of other phenomena. In a way, this results from the fact that much higher energy velocities and densities can be achieved in the world of atoms than we know from daily experience. A group of such phenomena is related to Einstein's theory of relativity.

According to this theory, it would be possible to generate forces that could be useful for propulsion. So, first, let's look at the well-known basic academic principles: Einstein's theory has been developed on many occasions, from which "solutions" have been derived that have been used to describe different systems or situations, and that take into account factors that the author of the theory of relativity ignored had been. One such advancement is the Einstein-Cartan equation formulated in 1918 (which, of course, is widely accepted by science). It takes into account not so much the existence of the mass itself, but also its rotational motion. A term with a negative sign appeared in the equation. It means that at a correspondingly high speed, the bodies begin to repel each other and the negative gravitation outweighs the positive. In other words, it's about antigravity. Tests carried out show that based solely on the dependencies described by this equation, the speeds should be around several million revolutions per second. 67 I tried to get someone's advice on this problem

draw, which deals with the further development of Einstein's theory.

It turned out that there are very few such specialists in Poland; however, in the summer of 2006 I finally contacted Professor Andrzej Trautman from the Institute of Theoretical Physics at the University of Warsaw, who is possibly the most outstanding expert in all of Poland. I confronted him with the following aspect: I of course described the German concept to him in a few words (see volume II) and added: "I decided to contact you because in the

description a term appears that has a relativistic meaning context suggests [i.e. relates to relativity]. It's about the "magnetic field separation" connection of high angular velocities of ions." I wanted to clarify this aspect and justify my assumptions, but my interlocutor interrupted me:

in

with

very

"You know, I don't think that's possible. We calculated that [the Cartan equation] for 'black holes' and it turned out that this antigravity effect was completely negligible.

You couldn't do something like that in a lab."

I tried to add what exactly my suspicions are based on and what relationships I mean, but Mr. Trautman wasn't the least bit interested. The direct reason for dialing this number - and arranging a longer face-to-face meeting - was proof that something like this is possible in the laboratory!

I was looking at a photocopy of an article that had been published in the journal *Physics Letters B* more than a decade earlier. Theoretically, someone who belongs to the very top of this field of research in Poland should have known about it a long time ago and know a lot more about it than I do. However, the opposite was true - he didn't even want to listen to the whole thing - "That's impossible, done!" (I've gotten used to that already). I would not have told him about theoretical predictions, but about the results of a very interesting experiment. 68 The article describes certain surprising experimental results obtained using a heavy ion accelerator at the Daresbury Laboratory site in the UK.

It was actually a system of two accelerators (a tandem accelerator) that not only accelerated the ions, but also set them in rotation. To be honest, I have been trying to get such measurement results for a long time without success. This has turned out to be extremely difficult, since normally ions of lighter elements are accelerated. Hardly anyone is interested in the energy that results from their rotation. Above all, I have not come across a single work in which all this has been analyzed from the perspective of the theory of relativity (specifically antigravity). Here, on the other hand, "everything came together". What's more, the ions were rotated at such tremendous speeds that the nuclear deformations under the influence of centrifugal force amounted to about 50 percent! So the limits of what is technically possible have been reached, only the "blessing" of other phenomena has been renounced, which can significantly increase the corresponding effects, but I will come back to that later.

First, we consider phenomena that are directly related to the Einstein-Cartan theory (rotating mass as a power source).

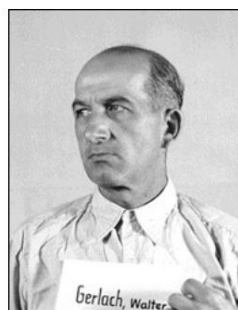
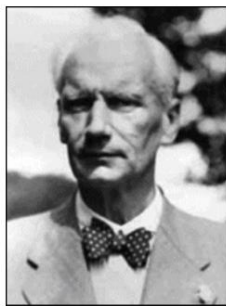
Mercury, which is mentioned in the context of the German *bell*, was not examined, but other very heavy elements were: gadolinium, terbium and dysprosium. Nevertheless, the similarity with the German description was relatively large - with the exception of the "Magnetfeldseparation" and the associated issues. What was found as a result of these experiments? Two surprising facts came to light: 1. No gravitational attraction or repulsion was measured, since⁶⁸ at these velocities and nuclear energies that would have been quite difficult to say the least. However, the effect could be measured very accurately in a slightly different way. In fact, it is known that there is an equal sign between gravitational force and inertia (the leveling of gravitation would result in the leveling of inertia and vice versa). Because of this, the inertia of the moving nuclei was measured. It turned out that at high rotation speeds, gravitational (inertial) decrease was as much as 50 percent! I suspect that this is inconsistent with the calculations made by Professor Trautman and his colleagues!

the

2. The second novelty was that these results were slightly different for each element - at the same energies! The article states the following:
“The graph shows that there are large differences in the moment of inertia depending on the rotation speed in each case. At 150Gd and 151Tb the inertia values frequencies [rotational speeds] are very large and decrease rapidly with increasing angular velocities, while at 149Gd they decrease much more slowly; at 151.152Dy they are almost constant.”

In this case, the so-called "isospin" plays a role - the different resulting rotation speeds of protons and neutrons that form the atomic nucleus.

The last point – the different “ability” of different elements and isotopes to weaken gravity and inertia – again raises the question as to why Professor Gerlach, a leading figure in the German project, chose mercury, also in ionized form had become the main subject of his interest even before the war (that's how we know about it).



Professor Walter Gerlach. (Internet)

In order to get an answer to this question, we might have to go back to the 1920s and determine why Gerlach "bet" on the rotation of the ions of this very metal - and at the same time turn to studies of the nature of ball lightning (as described in Volume II) involved. Did the exchange of letters with Piotr Kapica influence this decision? Or did the inspiration come from the USSR?

In this case, too, the answer is probably hidden in Russian archives.

As already mentioned, the results of the experiments described above are only one of many signs of the future and already emerging revolution in physics. In this case, the main impetus came from astronomy. It turns out that the movements of galaxies are very different from what the theory of relativity suggests, because they repel each other much more than they attract each other! Incidentally, this of course also contradicts the view of Prof. Trautman, since it contradicts all our previous knowledge. An astronomer described this phenomenon as follows: 69

“At the end of the last century there was a real breakthrough in cosmology. Suddenly it turned out that our previous ideas about the composition of the universe as well as its history and future are not so much incomplete as wrong! The mysterious cosmological constant introduced by Albert Einstein (or the universe component imitating it), which he later regarded as a huge error and forgot, exerts a non-negligible influence on our universe as antigravity.

It is accelerating expansion, and the density of energy associated with it is about 70 percent of the total density of the universe. [...]

Where the applications of quantum physics (small scales) and gravitational theory (large masses and energies) begin to intertwine, the New Physics should appear. For the time being, however, there is no such theory, although the

seemingly crazy ideas published in scientific journals can give us a taste of the new vision of the universe. [...]

Perhaps the problem lies in the form of the equations of general relativity itself, and not in the additional universe component?"

Signs of the breakthrough also reached the press. It is enough to mention an article in one of the largest Polish newspapers with the telling title Einstein on Revision. ⁷⁰

In an article in the American Popular Science
Published in the journal *Natural History*, the experiment was carried out in space aboard an orbital laboratory wrote the following: ⁷¹

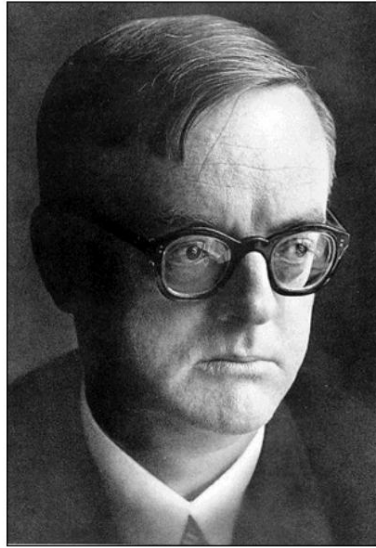
"And what about the possibility that Gravity Probe B will show us a new way of physics? According to physicist and Nobel laureate Chen Ning Yang of Stony Brook University in New York, Einstein's general theory of relativity is likely to be revised - in a way that will somehow include spin and rotation."

In general, these discoveries show that antigravity is by no means an "exotic" force and should be easier to generate than previously thought. How?

The rotational movement itself is still not enough, but there are quite interesting clues. I would venture to suggest that we should start with those areas of physics that combine gravity and quantum physics, since contrary to all appearances such areas do exist.

In the previous volume I mentioned a theory developed immediately after the First World War by Josef Lense and Hans Thirring, a German and an Austrian. They further developed Einstein's theory in a way that also took rotational motion into account. However, this was not the most important direction, although Thirring was a close associate of Professor Gerlach during the war. The point is that (as it has turned out in the meantime) based on their theory, the performance of a

possible drive cannot be significantly increased.



Professor Pascual Jordan – a physicist who is as outstanding on a world scale as Gerlach and Heisenberg, with a career that is no less mysterious. Ideologically, all three were very radical. What is much more important, however, is that the history of these three people shows that the main areas of their research work from the war years are practically absent from the post-war historiography of German nuclear physics (Gerlach: plasma and atomic nuclear spin in the strong magnetic field; Heisenberg: amalgams; Jordan: field separation theory in the relativistic context).
(archive of the author)

However, the corresponding theory already existed during the war, at least in its basic features, although its originator was someone else. In the second volume I mentioned that one of the basic terms appearing in the German description was the initially enigmatic "magnetic field separation". As I wrote, it should therefore be checked whether it was not a direction that could have increased the "gravitational effect". At the same time, the answer to this question could have confirmed or denied the validity of the "gravitational hypothesis". It was definitely pretty important information. It turned out that there was indeed a fairly obvious connection with gravity, the basis not being the Lense-Thirring theory, but the aforementioned "second" theory proposed by Professor Pascual Jordan (a German with ancestry from the Spanish aristocracy – hence the unusual first and last name) was formulated.

Like Gerlach, Jordan was one of the most outstanding German physicists during the war. His achievements were so outstanding that he was an almost certain candidate for the 1954 Nobel Prize. Eventually, however, the award went to Max Born, as Jordan was effectively disqualified after his wartime collaboration with the NSDAP and SS came to light. Inspired by wartime studies, Jordan wrote a number of papers on both gravity and quantum physics and common areas between these two fields (few scientists study them today). Among other things, he found that it is possible to artificially influence gravity by rotating a strong magnetic field (electromagnetic field). The principle was exactly the same as I described in the previous volume: a field (magnetic field) must not be considered in isolation from the space in which it is located, and if we could achieve a complete separation of the rotating fields, we would get some kind of gravity shield. Analyzes indicate that this effect is only significant if a very high rotation speed, high field energy and a "degree of separation" of the field or fields of over 99 percent can be achieved. The end effect should be a result of these three factors.

This "field separation theory" received its finishing touches shortly after the war in connection with a description by the French physicist Thiry and is now referred to as the "Jordan Thiry theory".

Before proceeding to their meaning in the context that interests us most, I would like to describe in a few sentences Pascual Jordan himself. 72, 73, 74

He was born in Hanover on October 18, 1902, so in 1944 he was just 42 years old. In the mid-1920s he graduated from the prestigious Georg-August University in Göttingen, which was probably the world's best in the field of exact sciences at the time.

There he also began his scientific career as an assistant to the mathematician Richard Courant and the physicist Max Born. In 1936 he became a lecturer and began lecturing at the aforementioned university.

Initially he was interested in quantum field theory (electromagnetism), but shortly before the war he turned mainly to gravitation and its relationship to quantum theory

to. His most important works from this period include: "Clear Quantum Theory" (1936) and "The Physics of the 20th Century" (also 1936). In 1941 he also published an excerpt that was more a projection of his personal interests - the book The Physics and the Mystery of Organic Life.

Werner Heisenberg was also his close collaborator and co-author of numerous articles at the time. Jordan also kept in close contact with Professor Gerlach at all times. Jordan joined the National Socialist Party in 1933, where he quickly became an active member. A year later he was also a member of the SA. In the years to come, this certainly made it easier for him to climb the ladder of a scientific career, but the party bigwigs did not have any particular trust in him. Although Jordan later revealed himself as a fanatical National Socialist, he never denied his admiration for Einstein and never disavowed such outstanding Jewish physicists as Courant, Born or Wolfgang Pauli. Jordan's above-average talent, on the other hand, was very quickly recognized by the army, specifically the air force, which sent him to Peenemünde in 1936 in connection with the expansion of the research base there. So at that time his career was comparable to that of Debus, although the latter was a member of the SS. However, we don't know much about wartime air force projects in which Jordan was involved. It is known that until 1944 he also had a civilian account as a professor for theoretical physics at the University of Rostock. In 1942 he was awarded the Max Planck Medal by the highest authorities of the Third Reich for outstanding services. He was only able to publish comprehensive works on the connections between quantum physics and gravitation after the war: in 1952 the book "Gravity and Universe" was published, and four years later "Atom and Universe". In the 1960s he was among others

Member of the American research foundation "Gravity Research Foundation" in New Boston, which dealt with research work on gravitation. Irrespective of this, he was a member of the Bundestag, where he revealed himself as a fanatical nationalist. It is significant that a

identical extreme fanaticism also characterized the other scientists active in this field (described in the previous volume), namely Gerlach and Debus.

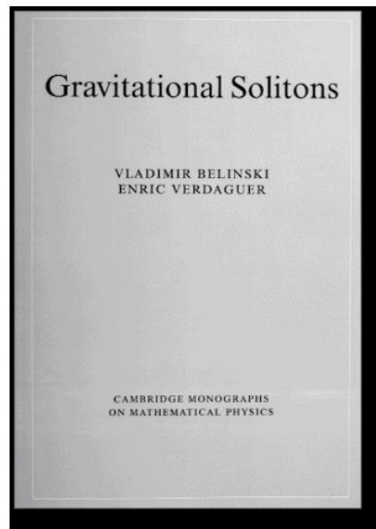


Werner Heisenberg before the war (second from right). He was a leading, but also, as it now turns out, one of the most mysterious figures in German nuclear physics during the war. The recently disclosed materials show that he was not only associated with a previously unknown research facility, but also supported a very different approach to the bomb's construction than previously thought. (Internet)

What does Jordan's theory mean in practice for assessing the concept likely behind the revolutionary and "nuclear physics-related" engine? It means, of course, that the mentioned "50 percent" leveling of gravity could be turned into a "multiple" leveling if only the criteria stated in the theory could be met.

As I wrote in the previous volume, plasma physics is the only way to generate vortices of heavy ions under field separation conditions (with correspondingly high strength of these fields); Specifically, it is about the "plasma litons" described in the chapter "Swirl Weapons", in which, as already mentioned, Gerlach was also interested (ie in ball lightning in the context of the letters to Fr. Kapica).

This complex of topics has recently enjoyed increasing popularity in science. By the way, if it were not interesting and promising, the very expensive *Shiva* Star project would not have continued for many years and the whole thing would not take place secretly on the site of a guarded military airfield (by the way, the name of the project ties in with traditions from the "Mahabharata").



The cover of an extensive scientific paper on soliton plasma vortices (which resemble ball lightning) in which, due to the very high ion velocities (including angular velocities) and overall very high energy densities, there are gravitational effects, ie effects that are useful from the point of view of eventual propulsion. The existence of such an analysis shows that the concept makes sense in itself. Unfortunately, it is still so new in the field of generally accepted physics that it only has the character of a mathematical theory. (Note: This mathematics is so complicated that I have not yet been able to find anyone who could use it to perform calculations about the German *bell* . If anyone is reading this who feels up to the task, please do so as a View the invitation - a copy of the book is available). B. carried out by the Americans in the Sandia Laboratories, represent a completely separate (hermetic) reality.

In connection with this, I obtain a book on the subject whose is and set Title (translated) just "Gravitation Solitons"⁷⁵ about to look for one or more consultants who could connect the known elements with each other. That turned out to be very difficult. Although I was able to establish that a certain Professor Witold Nazarewicz had dealt with this topic, it turned out that he works abroad permanently. Unfortunately, science is set up in such a way that there are no specialists for connections between such "different" areas as electromagnetism and gravitation. By chance, however, I met the physicist Dr. Zbigniew Osiak, who deals with this topic. He found it intriguing and promised to do some sort of analysis. He

made the impression of an expert on me, and by the way is currently working on a "Dictionary of Physics" for a renowned scientific publisher. His special area of interest is the theory of relativity. On November 9, 2006, I wrote the following request as a kind of cover letter to the many materials:

"As I said on the phone, I'm interested in conducting an analysis on a particular engineering solution to determine whether the antigravity effect would be significant in the context of such a solution (with calculations if possible). The end result could be an A4 page that I would print in the book.

The experiment described in the attached article from *Physics Letters B* could serve as a starting point: At very high rotation speeds of heavy ions, a reduction in the moment of inertia by about 50 percent was found. Since solitons are not mentioned at all in the article (field separation), it can be assumed that the above-mentioned effect was based exclusively on the Cartan equation (enclosed book excerpt). I'm interested in what would happen if you did the same thing in a soliton vortex - using what the Germans called 'magnetic field separation'.

Here one would have to rely on a mathematical description of solitons (the relevant excerpt from the book 'Gravitational Solitons' is attached) and on the Jordan-Thiry theory (available on the Internet). It describes the coupling between the electromagnetic field and the gravitational field. From this it follows that ensuring a magnetic field separation would have to result in the locality of the reference system in the sense of the theory of relativity. While I don't know what level of field separation could be achieved in plasma solitons (e.g., in ball lightning), a conservative estimate could be 99 percent—probably even more. In short: conditions as described in *Physics Letter B* plus magnetic field separation of about 99 percent. [...]

I would be immensely grateful for your help."

Even before preparing the promised analysis and after numerous phone calls, sometimes lasting an hour, Dr. Osiak to quote the following words: "You may write with a clear conscience that I fully agree with your line of thought and fully support your hypothesis" (statement dated February 16, 2007). For the time being this explanation had to suffice.

Finally, instead of an analysis, I got the explanation that the connection between the described complex of topics and the rotation (including von Felder), the Jordan theory and the like. is obvious, but the precise determination of the forces generated and the efficiency of such a device as a means of propulsion is not possible at the current stage of development "due to the lack of equations of motion". All further analysis attempts failed because of this "wall".

The next few years will probably show whether the hypothesis I have put forward about the propulsion for strategic weapons is correct or not.

After the publication of the (first) Polish edition of this book, a physicist who had borrowed my book "Gravitational Solitons" contacted me and started his calculations.

Even though a year has passed, he's still doing the math—equations that could trigger a heart attack just to look at. From time to time, however, he shares with me his reflections that coincide with my hypothesis, e.g. B.: "I believe that one day it will turn out that the whole thing - as you said - is much simpler than it seems to us today". In fact, the mathematical complexity is outrageous. This physicist one day found that he B. had to master the whole theory of acoustics to create a model of such a vortex. He is also looking for information himself and has managed to find a previously unknown wartime work by Heisenberg entitled The Order of Reality, which analyzes possibilities of unifying various physical influences.

Addition:

What did Joseph P. Farrell find out?

Within the last few years, a number of books have already been published abroad that describe and possibly continue the topic of the *bell* - a device that was presented in detail in the last part of the second book of "The Truth About the Wonder Weapon". 77, 78, 79, 80

The publications of Nick Cook and Geoffrey Brooks provide essentially no new and original information on the subject that would be the result of an independent search by the authors. However, the situation is different in the case of the book by Argentine researcher Abel Basti entitled "Hitler in Argentina". Although not much space was devoted to the German project and only its evacuation was discussed, this information is very important and new (by the way, the book is of a very high standard and is based, among other things, on numerous reports from people who witnessed the German measures were, as well as statements by the Germans themselves; it took the author four years to collect them). As I wrote in the second volume, one of the unsolved issues is the mysterious flight of the Junkers-390 transport plane, probably the same one that concerned Kammler's last telegram - he didn't want to return the plane. According to a statement by SS-Obergruppenfuhrer Sporrenberg, the plane reached Bodø in Norway in April 1945, after which it disappeared without a trace. Of course, that means it was going somewhere, knowing that it had a range that would allow reconnaissance flights along the east coast of the US; at least once it also flew non-stop to Japan. Basti writes that this matter is well known among the Germans: the plane landed in Uruguay near Gualeguay and the Argentine border. After unloading, it was pushed into the Uruguay River, where it probably still lies today. A truck transport to Bariloche in southern Argentina was organized, for which former SS officer Reinhard Kopps, using the name Juan Maler (and residing in Bariloche), was in charge. Geoffrey Brooks, who also lives in Argentina, repeated this motif in his book, which we also published.



SS Obergruppenführer Jakob Sporrenberg. (author's collection)

I consider this report to be credible as it corresponds to my information, which I have never fully published. I received them from Paweł Dębicki from Mielec. It all started when an initially mysterious person showed my informant a photo taken in South America of the Ju-390 on a cleared jungle airfield with palm trees in the background. Due to certain (misleading) suggestions, the suspicion arose that this person was some descendant of a Polish diplomat accredited in Uruguay or Argentina. Jorge Guaraglia, my collaborator in Uruguay, took charge of the matter and, after a while, categorically stated that there had never been such a person in the Polish diplomatic corps. The matter could only be clarified after a long time. The owner of the photo of the plane was a military counterintelligence officer assigned to oversee the PZL works in Mielec, who had questioned various individuals on the matter. This was related to the fact that the Junkers flight to Japan started from this Mielec airfield. This person was still using the name "Kowalewski" and (probably) the given name "Adam" as late as the 1980s. Later he "operated" under the name "Bałka". At present he is said to be unwilling to make any contact on the matter.

Paweł Dębicki was able to establish the following:

"The name Kowalewski [Robert, probably a major] appeared in the KG

40 long-range reconnaissance unit of the Luftwaffe. It was based in Norway and France [Limoges?].” So the picture was probably taken by a member of the flight crew! According to Dȳbicki, it could have been the grandfather of the picture owner. So one can assume that he stayed in South America; maybe Abel Basti will be able to reach his relatives or the relatives of the other pilots.

However, among the four publications mentioned, which in a sense address the theme of the German project, the book by Joseph P. Farrell, recently published in the United States under the suggestive title *The Brotherhood of the Bell*, deserves the most attention. 80 A summary of my research on the “Glocke” in the second volume, which was also published in English, takes up a lot of space in the book. Most of the approximately 460 pages (!) contain speculations of various kinds, which are sometimes a bit exotic and, in my opinion, far-fetched.



The cover of Farrell's book.

However, the interpretations are clearly separated from the facts, which does not diminish the value of the book. Although only a small part of this publication contains new source information and genuinely interesting suggestions, the length of the publication means that they are relatively numerous - at least numerous enough to be included in this publication.

Chapter to be presented.

First, Farrell presents some fascinating details about various Third Reich armaments projects. He describes, among other things, the Lippisch P-13b ramjet fighter which, according to the documentation of Operation *Lusty*, was secretly brought to the USA after the war (see Volume II). It is said to have been a supersonic aircraft that was flown in during 1945. Farrell notes on this occasion, in the context of America's "post-war race to break the sound barrier", that - as has been reported in many statements - "Chuck Yeager was the first American to break the sound barrier".

The author was very interested in my chapter on "death rays" and added the following noteworthy note (page 43): "From this point of view it is perhaps worth noting that in 1955 the electronics giant Siemens

received one of the first US patents for a X-ray laser signed; about half a decade before the first masers and lasers were "discovered". Was the Siemens patent really the fruit of work that had already been done during the Third Reich?"

An interesting note can also be found a few pages later:

"In August 1946, a senior department of the British War Office disclosed that Hitler 'wanted the moon.' [...] As German author Friedrich Georg says, the commentary hints at the existence of von Braun's A14 moon rocket—a design for a five-stage rocket that would carry three astronauts to the moon and back to Earth, where they would then be carried in a version of Erich Sanger's 'rocket plane' should land."

Another excerpt relates to the little-known Germans

Working on radars:

"A little-known aspect of German wartime research is the over-the-horizon radar. While the Nazis were exploring several options to solve the homing problem of the 'America' intercontinental missiles (including a manned version where the pilot would veer at the last moment

catapulted out), the most preferred method was a radar beam guidance system. One of the concepts was to put a transmitter on top of the Empire State Building for this purpose!

So far, however, so-called over-the-horizon radars in terms of production technology have been the most promising, serious and most advanced solutions that have been further developed for this purpose ('Elephant', 'Sea-Elephant' and the mobile 'Freya' systems). The 'Elephant' system was developed by the research department of the Reichspost and was the world's first true over-the-horizon radar to take advantage of temperature inversion in the ionosphere. The 'Elephant Lake' represented its evolution and was erected [rather 'unfolded'] in western Denmark. It consisted of an approximately 100 m high transmitting antenna and two stationary receiving antennas, which were set up at a certain distance to the side of it. It was a broadband system operating in the 23-29 MHz, 24-30 MHz and 30-38 MHz frequency ranges.

The most advanced of all over-the-horizon radars, however, was the 'Freya' system - a revolutionary solution that was fully maneuverable. [...] It was based on a completely different and new way of functioning than the 'Elephant' and 'SeeElephant', which were still equipped with single transmitting antennas and double receiving antennas. The main transmitting and receiving antenna sent an impulse that was later also sent by the side antennas. It was an authentic synthetic aperture radar capable of modulating the beam. [...] These systems were already very precise in October 1943: at that time they made it possible to guide a bomber from a distance of 105 km to the target, capable of dropping bombs on the Zeil with an accuracy of 600 m without hitting it see."

The original German schematic printed in the book accurately shows the use of the *Freya* as a means of guiding long-range weapons! The outline of an A4b shell, which had a range of about 600 km, is clearly visible (it would have enabled Britain to be shelled directly from German territory).

Such information is pretty much marginalized in the book being discussed - it's largely devoted to the *Chronos / Lantern Bearer project* . The author has probably tried to avoid quoting the original publication too extensively and has presented his own speculations about the mode of action and the design goal of the device described. He fully agrees with my statements and supports them with further arguments. However, he surmises that the *bell* may have been "something more". However, this assumption is based on the fact that part of the original description presented by me would have to be replaced - e.g. B. that the device emitted short, discontinuous pulses of radiation and that a very strong sound source "should" have been in the vicinity. This would "support" the hypothesis that the isotopes contained in the "nucleus" emitted directed pulses of gamma rays and the like. Fortunately, Farrel himself has labeled this as speculation and separated it from the rest of his discussion.

However, in this "remaining part" I found two "motifs" that actually contain new important data and are compatible with the description of the source. I think they are very interesting.

The first is just a sentence citing an article describing the atypical "behaviour" of mercury during a particular experiment. It was published in the scientific journal *Science* in 1969. So my first reaction was to find this vintage. It turned out that the article was well worth this little effort, because it represents an interesting, strange and later probably forgotten phenomenon. 81 Incidentally, a lot of coincidence played a role in its discovery.

The attempt is very simple. Here's what two scientists analyzing different models of air circulation did: they poured mercury into a small round vessel that resembled a saucer.

The jar was covered with a transparent cover. An ordinary gas burner was placed under it in such a way that it could slowly move along the vessel at a speed of about one revolution per minute. The vessel itself did not rotate. After a short time as the mercury heated up, it was observed to begin rotating about the center of the vessel, in the opposite direction to the movement of the burner. The phenomenon seemed banally simple

to be - it was the result of convection, the movement of the mercury was caused by the flow of heat. What is noteworthy, however, is the fact that this rotary movement was "many times faster" than the rotary movement of the burner. In a similar experiment, using water instead of mercury in the vessel, it rotated very slowly, at a fraction of a percent of the burner's rotational speed.

If you compare this with the value measured in the case of mercury (several hundred percent), it turns out that the difference is three orders of magnitude, i.e. **about a thousand times !**

After all, a unique property of this liquid metal was discovered in this way. The scientists found that it results from the "very low viscosity". This is reminiscent of the remark by Professor Demiański printed in Volume II, who referred to the question "Why mercury of all things?" including its low viscosity.

In other words, mercury rotates much more easily than other materials - sometimes thousands of times more "readily". A note on this occasion: The above experiment is clearly reminiscent of the description given in the Indian "Mahabharata", which speaks of a "spherical vessel filled with mercury" which "held over a flame the power of thunder." ' unfolded etc.

Pages 305-310 of Farrell's book again contain a rather interesting hypothesis about the role of the core in the German device. The core doubled as a container containing a mysterious substance called *Serum 525* or *Xerum 525* . It was a metallic-looking "gel" that was in all likelihood some amalgam of mercury and heavy isotopes. The core represented the axis of the plasma accelerator, which means that during operation it was bombarded with mercury ions accelerated to very high speeds and therefore had to be exposed to a very powerful neutron beam. I must admit that I have not previously been able to solve the mystery of the nature of the metallic "gel" or the role of the nucleus itself (except that the nucleus most likely represented one of the accelerator's electrodes and resided in its could collect products of nuclear reactions inside). It was not at all clear, however, whether these were "by-products" or whether the Germans were involved

was perhaps most convenient. So what did Farrell propose?

Exposing the atoms in the nucleus to an extraordinarily strong magnetic field (in his opinion) probably led to the formation of "high-spin isomers", or in other words, atomic nuclei with a high "isotopic spin". As I mentioned in the case of the experiment investigating relativistic phenomena (reduction of inertia) caused by the rotation of heavy metal ions, this effect depended strongly on the "isotopic spin". The point is that apart from the rotational movement, which can be artificially generated, there is also a component that represents the resultant of the torques of the individual components of the atomic nucleus (and is not linked to the rotation of the whole atom). It is different for the individual elements and isotopes, also for certain "variants" of the same element, which are called "isomers".

When it comes to the influence on relativistic effects (gravitational effects), differences of about a factor of 2 were observed in the experiments described in the article. In the case of the German device, it could have been about the production of a special material that would have been most susceptible to such effects and would ultimately result in higher resulting forces. The description indicated that the 'gel-like' substance was some mixture.

However, Farrell brings up another related motive. The isotopic spin also means that a certain additional amount of energy is bound up in the nucleus - and this energy can be relatively large and interesting from the point of view of a nuclear weapon, or more precisely: for initiating the reaction. farrell wrote:

“These substances are a strange type of radioactive isotope called nuclear isomers, and isomers have some really, really strange properties. The isomers, discovered in 1921, are simply metastable or 'extremely stable' forms of atoms, formed by excitation of the protons or neutrons in their nuclei, which require a spin change before they can release their pent-up energy. Now we are one step closer to understanding the bell, because now it seems that the device

due to the presence of 'Xerum-525' was much more than just a high voltage counter-rotating plasma trap as envisioned by Witkowski. She certainly was, but she was also a kind of reactor.”

The substance mentioned evokes associations with something that was hotly debated in the physical science world in the 1980s, namely “red mercury”. This substance gave rise to what has, without exaggeration, been the equivalent of the "gold rush" in the illicit arms market (particularly for fissile materials). According to the secret service, it was smuggled out of the USSR. After that, numerous analyzes and experiments emerged that found it to be fraudulent, but many leading Western physicists (especially the more informed ones) continued to believe that "red mercury" was real and a true (and dangerous)

breakthrough in the design of nuclear weapons. This group includes Dr. Frank Barnaby - co-designer of the British atomic bomb, who investigated the matter in Russia himself, and Dr.

Sam Cohen himself - the developer of the American neutron bomb (a thermonuclear charge initiated by a conventional shaped-charge explosion without a fission fuse). Red mercury, also known as RM-20.20, was said to have the properties of a "near-nuclear explosive" twice as powerful as TNT, which would have made bomb design much easier. Incidentally, this is reminiscent of Karlsch's description of an explosion in Thuringia, which was odd in that it referred to the unusually small amount of fissile material, about 100 grams (ie, a few cubic centimetres), used for this purpose.

The question of a "gel-like amalgam" also recalls work done in Ústí, Czech Republic and a transport performed by the Japanese I-29 submarine. In the latter case, a mercury-radium amalgam was "discovered".

⁸⁴ This formulation is somewhat problematic because the specific gravity of mercury is almost three times that of radium (or its isotopes) and the two metals cannot mix in liquid form, like

water cannot mix with oil. However, water and oil can be mixed together when forming a dough. For the same reason, the mercury-radium amalgam mentioned must also have been a fairly viscous substance, which is therefore at least roughly reminiscent of "red mercury".

In the available publications, no meaningful explanation of the nature of RM-20.20 appears once, and the high-spin isomer hypothesis has no serious competition (Barnaby suggested that the so-called "free radicals" could be responsible for this, but at this amount of energy it would be not possible). There are certain similarities with the content of the described German "core". It is known that the Soviet substance was also produced by irradiating mercury or one of its amalgams in an accelerator (in Dubna). While we don't know what type of accelerator it was, whether it produced sufficiently strong magnetic fields (which is a required condition), one possible approach is the similarity between *serum/xerum* and RM-20.20. According to the description, both substances had the same consistency and both were colored – purple and cherry red respectively. Should the Germans have been concerned with the development of a "raw material" for the construction of a nuclear weapon ("Spinkernwaffe")? Of course, this is only speculation, and the most important counter-argument is whether the knowledge of nuclear physics at the time was sufficient for such sophisticated solutions. There is also no verifiable confirmation that such a substance could actually be used as an extraordinary explosive, although it is known that despite the formal "metastability", isomers can decay more easily than normal nuclei of the same element under special circumstances.

The first explanation, that it was about the development of a substance that facilitates gravitational effects, seems to me more "certain" - since we know that in this case the properties of isomers actually bring significant advantages.⁶⁸ This explanation is also simpler in that the goal of development would be directly related to the principle of operation of the device itself (the manufactured material should increase its efficiency). Perhaps there was another advantage - we should consider the note in the above quote about the exceptional stability of

Note isomers. This could have been of significant importance from the point of view of limiting harmful, primarily biological, side effects, since they are certainly at least to some extent the result of the disintegration of nuclei due to their collisions with each other, with the shell, etc. were. At least that was the source of the neutron radiation. The "high-spin material" might have had a higher "viscosity" than mercury (perhaps there were isomers of mercury itself?), but it had other advantages.

I would like to conclude these speculations here, because one cannot decide them at the present time anyway. Returning to the source information from Farrell's book.

Farrell also comments on a question which, while not clearly articulated in the second volume, inevitably arises.

The point is that some of the key scientists mentioned in Volume II came to the United States after the war, and yet there was not even a hint that the Americans were continuing their work, or at least becoming more interested in them. We're talking about Dr. Kurt Debus and Professor Walther Gerlach. The former was put in charge of NASA's John F. Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral, while the latter was interrogated before being released and settling in Germany. In the case of Gerlach, it was significant that he no longer published anything on the subjects that had fascinated him so much in the 1930s (not to mention the war years). Of course, one can explain this by saying that both were afraid of being accused of taking part in preparations for acts of a truly apocalyptic character, which would certainly have had an impact on their careers. After the war, both were in the relatively bright limelight. Despite this prosaic explanation, it's hard not to get the impression that there was something more at stake here, namely, an agreed-upon silence. Incidentally, a few years ago a certain Helga Mazuw, the daughter of the "mysterious" Emil Mazuw, who was responsible for the project described in the previous volume and who was a close associate of Himmler, contacted me. His daughter tried to learn something from me about her father's wartime activities, since she said she knew absolutely nothing about it. Not only did her father leave no documents or mementos, but he never spoke

his family about what he was doing. However, he lived on for 40 years after the war!

In the context of this set of issues, Farrell cites an interesting excerpt from a 1987 paper by Tom Bower on America's Operation *Paperclip* [whose aim was to recruit key rocket and aircraft scientists]. I would like to follow his example and also quote this excerpt:

83

"Three scholars from Peenemünde - all anti-fascists who had refused to sign treaties with the Americans - revealed to Osborne that the strict hierarchical structure governed by Dornberger, Axster and von Braun remained untouched despite the defeat of the Third Reich. Before each interrogation [by the Americans], there was a detailed briefing with the 'Trinity' during which it was determined what could and could not be disclosed. The instructions were simple: disclose no more than was necessary to pique scientific and technical curiosity, and give no details that might make Americans unwilling to hire them. [...] After each interrogation, each German was questioned again in the presence of his colleagues, so that the others knew exactly what the current state of knowledge of the Americans was. Osborne also discovered that those scientists who criticized or did not follow Dornberger's instructions were punished."

Farrell not only gives strictly technical data, but also shows relatively clearly that in the final phase of the war among the Allies - or among the better informed higher commanders - the fear that the Third Reich could win the war actually arose again! There is more than one source for this.

In the statements and reports, of course, the motive for new weapons with extraordinary destructive power appears. Let's start with excerpts from a document printed in a book, the author of which was the commander of an intelligence branch at the headquarters of the US Strategic Air Forces in Europe; the letter was addressed to General George McDonald. The document is dated January 5, 1945, so it was created immediately after the German counter-offensive was stopped in

the Ardennes:

1.

You certainly remember the SHAEF forecast that came in after D-Day in 1944. It stated that Germany's surrender would take place at the end of December of that year. The SHAEF forecast is believed to have had a powerful impact on both Washington planning and our theater of war. After this date, US Air Force equipment, armament, tactics, training needs, and supplies were determined.

2.

However, Hitler's Germany did not set the end of this war at the end of 1944. Hitler's Germany expects with determination and vitality that the war will last indefinitely and that it will fight for superiority in both armament and leadership.

3.

With the exception of a few modifications and improvements, the American air forces in this theater of war fight with basically the same armament as in 1942. From 1942 to 1944, the aircraft and equipment of the US Army Air Forces were better than anything the enemy in this theater of war decreed. In fact, overall the weapons and equipment of this period were superior to the enemy's solutions, both in terms of ground and air forces. That period ended on December 31, 1944 - Germany is still at war, but not with weapons from 1942. They are world leaders, having tested jets, long-range guided missiles, new types of submarines and - in certain categories - better tanks. Much of their production facilities have been moved underground [...].”

Also of interest is the following excerpt from the book:

“On January 4, 1945, General George S. Patton wrote something

Notable in his journal: 'We could still lose the war'. That was a poignant statement, especially since the last German offensive operation of World War II – the Ardennes counteroffensive [the Anglo-Saxons describe it as the “Battle of the Bulge”] was almost defeated, and the victorious Allied armies, together with the Soviet forces, were about to deal the deathblow to the sinking Third Reich. Optimism prevailed at the Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force (SHAEF). For some reason, however, General 'Old Blood and Guts' Patton, despite his brave and optimistic public image, harbored serious misgivings and reservations. The question comes up:

Why?

In all conventional military areas, the Third Reich was done for!"

The book even includes a similar view from Roosevelt himself! Incidentally, Farrell suspects that one of the reasons for the German counter-offensive in the Ardennes was a desire to get close enough to London to fire the final salvo of V-2 missiles carrying weapons of mass destruction on board. He prints a quote from Brooks' book: 78

"A Luftwaffe adjutant in Hitler's quarters [von Below] wrote in his 'Memoirs' in 1982 that even he could not understand why Hitler wanted to reach Antwerp - 'a place after nowhere'."

Also from the same source comes a note about a statement by Donald Putt - he is said to have stated that "the Germans had V-2 rockets with nuclear warheads".

So far we knew from Russian that such a concept existed documents.

Perhaps most interesting of the book, however, is an extraordinary article printed in it that was published in Europe shortly after the end of the war and, according to Farrell, was written by experts at the aircraft company Convair (Consolidated Vultee). It was written when the

War in the Pacific was still ongoing, and bears the telling title "By a hair's breadth": 82 "During the European phase of the war victory was several times within Germany's reach on land, sea and sky.

Above all, the Nazis knew the key importance of air superiority and often wanted to wrest it from the Allies. And they almost succeeded.

THERE WAS NO TIME

In the final months of the war in particular, our margin of safety was tighter than most of us realized.

Exactly how scarce it was is best known to certain American military experts who have inspected some German underground research laboratories and war industries since that time.

stages of development there, weapons which would probably have turned the tide to the advantage of the Germans had they been unscrupulously used by them in the last desperate standoff.

Some of these things can now be revealed. Others - not yet.

At one facility, US Army officers found partially assembled jet fighters of an entirely new design.

These aircraft were potentially better than any solution the Allies had on the battlefield at the time.

If the Germans had not lacked time, a certain number of these aircraft could have swayed the balance of power in the air war in their favor. In a plant making V-rockets, hidden 800 feet [245m?!] under limestone rock, our engineers found designs for a horrific V-bomb [the A9/A10?] with an estimated range of 3,000 miles. 'We planned to start demolishing New York and other American cities in November' – said a German

rocket engineer.



The beginning of the article "By a hair's breadth".

THE DESTINATION: THE USA

In a converted salt mine, our weapons officers examined near-completed heavy jet bombers—bombers that the Germans said were capable of dropping powerful explosives on industrial cities in the eastern part of the United States and returning to their bases across the Atlantic.

Goering himself said that these planes were flown in successfully and would have been used if Germany had held out three more months. However, such – and other – catastrophic scenarios have never materialized. We managed to maintain our previous air superiority until the very end, if only by a hair's breadth!

AND WHAT ABOUT JAPAN?

What is happening in these underground war factories built by the Japanese? We want to know! [...] Both then and now, among all the reports of the successes of our planes shooting down the Japanese in a ratio of 10:1, we have alarming news about a completely new Japanese weapon. [...]"

Postscript

The information about the giant complex mentioned in the addendum and its role presented by other authors should be supplemented with one more detail, which was given to me this time by Bartosz Rduytowski, who wrote, among other things, the work Syndrome V-7 (The V -7 syndrome"). He came across an account from 1946 by two inmates who had previously worked at the *giant* ; this report seems to confirm certain theses. Although he started the conversation with me with a longer pause and the words "You know what I think about these stories about German flying saucers...", the report made him very curious - me too, by the way. At first I wasn't supposed to give any details about it, but after several months I was able to find the source of this information myself. It turned out that the first post-war commander of the citizens' militia in Walim (Wüstewaltersdorf) had the statements of two prisoners who had described "oval" flying objects. They hovered silently above the earth and were made in the region. An acquaintance living there also found a letter from a German engineer who had worked in Ludwikowice (Ludwigsdorf) at the end of the war. The engineer wrote: "What we are working on will completely change the world".

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